



ABOVE: Justina's charity event. (See page 5).

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2010

## FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DECIDE FUTURE

# Council takes on old factory in Maesteg

THE old Cooper Standard Factory in Maesteg has been bought by Bridgend County Borough Council.

The factory, which made rubber channelling for the motor industry, closed about two years ago, when the American owners moved production to a new factory in Poland.

Since then, it has been up

for sale. The council has now stepped in to buy the factory, known for many years as Silent Channel, lock stock and barrel with encouragement from the Welsh Assembly Government.

A council spokesman said that it was very early days and that a feasibility study was being carried out to see how best the premises could be used to create new jobs.

It is unlikely that a single

employer will be found to take over the entire factory and the council is looking to sub-divide the extensive premises to a number of smaller employers seeking suitable industrial premises.

The privately-owned Budelpack factory next door, formerly Revlon and later Cosi, is being cleared, but it is unclear what will happen to this land.

## COME TO THE COPACABANA!



Stopping the traffic in Porthcawl! See page 5 for full details. (Photo by Malcolm Nugent.)

# Shock Grand Pavilion blaze leaves junior actors out in the cold

A FIRE at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion has forced the postponement of a junior youth theatre production involving dozens of local youngsters.

In fact, the blaze broke out while the Bridgend Junior Youth Theatre were rehearsing – but the juniors were not on the main stage at the time.

The GEM understands that there has been damage to the sound system, which was only recently upgraded after a donation by Porthcawl Town Council.



'THE SHOW CAN'T GO ON!'

The young actors (above) were all smiles during rehearsal – but then came news of the fire that has forced their show to be called off.

The new production (April 8) and run for three nights. However, a Bridgend County Borough

Council (BCBC) spokesman said: "As a result of the fire on the stage of the Grand Pavilion last night, it has been necessary to postpone this week's Bridgend Youth Theatre performance of 'Mulan'." "Ticket holders will be contacted in due course with details of new arrangements and dates for the shows, but if you have any other queries in the meantime, please contact the box office on 01656 815995."

The spokesman continued: "A small fire occurred at the Grand Pavilion at around 7pm on Tuesday, April 6."

"It broke out in the stage area and was dealt with by fire crews after staff followed established safety procedures, which included containing the fire by lowering the safety curtain."

"A rehearsal for a youth theatre show was under way in another part of the building, but everybody was quickly and safely evacuated and no one was harmed."

"The stage, curtains and electrics have suffered some damage, which is currently being assessed."

"Staff at the Grand Pavilion and Bridgend County Borough Council would like to thank the fire service for their prompt response."

As The GEM went to press, BCBC issued a statement adding: "We are working hard to ensure that minimum disruption occurs to the forthcoming performance schedule."

## Christmas lights problems are blamed on local power supply

Representatives of Lumlite and the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have attended a meeting of Porthcawl Town Council, to discuss problems with the town's Christmas street lighting.

Councillors were not happy with the lighting,

stating that many of the lights were faulty and did not seem to be suitable for the windy weather conditions.

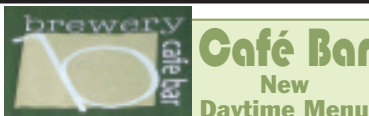
But Mr Stephen Jackson of Lumlite stated that the majority of the failures were down to inadequate power supplies. Only three out of 41 reported lighting failures were down to faulty lights –

the rest were down to faulty power supplies, which were the responsibility of the town council.

Mr Steve Cottrell of BCBC said that they were responsible for the street lighting and carry out scouting to identify faults. They had remedied faulty power supplies notified to them by the town council.

Mr Cottrell added that the lights on the Christmas tree next to the police station could not be located closer than six feet to the ground for health and safety reasons.

The Town Council has now agreed to pay Lumlite the outstanding sum on their invoice.



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# Whatever your preference, the important thing is to VOTE!

**I**N the early 1800s, only men with substantial personal wealth could vote in elections: they represented only 3 per cent of the UK population as a whole, yet they were responsible for choosing a government for everyone.

The campaign against this system lasted for over 100 years and even resulted in several men and women losing their lives in order to win the right to vote.

It wasn't until 1918 that all women aged over 30 and all men aged over 21 were eventually given the right to vote. Subsequent Representation of the People Acts in 1928 and 1969 lowered the voting age to 18 for everyone.

For over 40 years, therefore, every adult in the UK has had the right to vote to decide who will run the country.

With a general election to be within weeks, the need to exercise your right to vote is as important today as it has

ever been. Despite the long struggle to secure the right to vote, the number of people who actually vote has steadily decreased with every election.

Indeed, only 59 per cent of eligible voters in the Bridgend constituency voted in the 2005 general election.

This figure doesn't include the many thousands of people in the area who aren't registered to vote at all.

I have strong faith in our parliamentary system and am very proud to represent the people of Bridgend in Westminster.

However, I feel equally strongly that many thousands of people should participate in the political process. Your vote, however you decide to exercise it, empowers you to choose what you think is right for the future of the country.

The Hansard Society is a leading non-partisan political research charity that has investigated the level of political engagement since 2004.

Their most recent report highlights that many people feel very

**AS the general election campaign gets under way, Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON urges the public to exercise their democratic rights at the ballot box.**



strongly about politics, with 76 per cent of the population believing it is their duty to vote and two-thirds of the population rejecting the idea that 'politics is a waste of time'.

This is heartening, but the same survey found that only 2 in 5 people discussed politics or political news with someone else over the past 2-3 years.

More importantly, 69 per cent of the population believe that the current system of governing Great Britain could be improved either 'quite a lot' or 'a great deal'.

These figures illustrate that people know and appreciate the importance of Parliament, but that there is considerable disillusionment with poli-

tics at the moment.

I understand this and appreciate how recent events have damaged the reputation of Parliament. I share the frustration that many people feel towards some areas of government.

There are many ways to make a difference, and the most basic (yet important) of all is to vote. In order to vote, you need to be registered.

Many people may think they are already registered, but this may not be the case. If you have recently moved house, for example, you may not be registered.

If you're unsure whether you're registered or not, you can contact Bridgend County Borough Council's electoral services department. (See page 8)

They can send you new registration forms

for regular or postal votes, which enable you to vote if you cannot make it to a local polling station on the day of the election.

The department can be contacted by email (electoral@bridgend.gov.uk) or by telephone (01656 643293). For more general information on all aspects of voting, visit [www.about-myvote.co.uk](http://www.about-myvote.co.uk).

In order to make the most of your vote, it is vitally important to know what you're voting for.

You may already have received information through the door or perhaps met with representatives of different political parties when they called at your home.

I would urge you to take this opportunity to ask questions of each party and candidate:

What future do you see for this country? How would you reduce crime, improve education, health, employment and the economy?

Everyone has a different view and different priorities, and you must make the choice that you think is best for you and for the country.

Ultimately, the decision is yours and yours alone.

*The most important thing is that you vote. As citizens of this country, I believe that it is our responsibility to take part in elections.*

*Many people I have met share this view, and I hope to see more people making the most of their right to vote at the upcoming election.*

## Sorry, Alice!



**ABOVE:** The GEM was delighted last week to congratulate Alice Owen on reaching the grand age of 105.

Unfortunately, a glitch meant that she was 're-named' as Alice Young.

However, a family member has contacted us, asking to correct the suggestion made that Alice was Maesteg born and bred.

He said: "Alice was Caerau born and bred – and in these parts that makes a big difference!"

Finally, the article pointed out that Alice had always lived within a two-and-a-half mile radius. She did, of course, frequently travel far and wide on holiday.

## Jury service ban for over-70s

**T**HE age discrimination task group of The Older People's Strategy Forum have tirelessly campaigned to the Ministry of Justice, on the issue of people over the age of 70 being barred from jury service.

There appears to be no logical explanation as to why this is so, and the forum feel it is an outdated piece of legislation, and currently excludes many people who would be competent to sit as jurors.

The Ministry of Justice have, from March 16, launched a consultation on raising the upper age limit for jury service.

Please have your say on this important issue.

Details on how you can express your views

to the Ministry of Justice can be found on the forum's website at [www.valeopf.org.uk](http://www.valeopf.org.uk) Jane Weldon (Age discrimination task group member, OPF)

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE    | Time  | Ht  | Time  | Ht  |
|---------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
|         | AM    | M   | PM    | M   |
| 08 Thur | 02.17 | 7.2 | 15.09 | 7.1 |
| 09 Fri  | 03.42 | 7.6 | 16.21 | 7.6 |
| 10 Sat  | 04.41 | 8.2 | 17.11 | 8.1 |
| 11 Sun  | 05.27 | 8.4 | 17.52 | 8.6 |
| 12 Mon  | 06.06 | 8.8 | 18.24 | 8.8 |
| 13 Tues | 06.42 | 9.2 | 18.59 | 9.3 |
| 14 Wed  | 07.12 | 9.4 | 19.29 | 9.5 |
| 15 Thur | 07.47 | 9.5 | 20.03 | 9.7 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

## PORTHCAWL RNLI WELCOMED TO DOWNING STREET



RNLI's 'Community Heroes' at 10 Downing Street.

**BRIDGEND MP** Madeleine Moon accompanied two members of Porthcawl RNLI to a special 'Community Heroes' reception at No 10 Downing Street recently.

Philip Missen MBE

and Wendy Conley of Porthcawl RNLI

attended the event, hosted by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Mrs Brown.

They were invited by Mrs Moon to honour their dedication, courage and commitment to duty, risking their lives on a daily basis to help those in

danger around our coasts.

She said: "I invited Phil and Wendy to the reception to meet the Prime Minister to recognise their commitment and to pay tribute to them, and all the crew members of the lifeboat, who are all members, risking their lives for others."

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## LOCAL INFORMATION

**MADELEINE MOON MP** for Bridgend  
Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Noltton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.  
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Telephone 01639 643549  
**BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau,**  
Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend  
CF31 1JD 01656 654951 - Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm - information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm - advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm - information only.  
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**MENTAL DISTRESS**  
(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045  
**CHILDLINE** 0800 1111  
**NSPCC** 0800 800500  
**RSCA** 0300 123 0744  
**WOMEN'S AID** 01656 766139  
**Bridgend Carers' Centre** 01656 658479  
**Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend)** 01656 651490  
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**VOLUNTARY WORK** Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400  
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Coychurch Higher Comm Council 01656 863418  
Coychurch Lower Comm Council 01656 647216  
Garw Valley Community Council 01656 736751  
Laleston Community Council 01656 656506  
Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council 01656 720086  
Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council 01656 738804  
Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631  
Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058  
Newcastle Higher Comm Council 01446 750663.  
Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402  
Pencoe Town Council 01656 869031  
Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215  
St Brides Minor Comm Council 01656 725031  
Ynysawdre Community Council 01656 736751



# More people using public transport... REPORT SPELLS OUT BOROUGH COUNCIL'S BUS SERVICE POLICY

**THE advent of the Welsh Assembly Government free bus passes for senior citizens and the disabled has resulted, not surprisingly, in more people catching buses in Bridgend.**

A report to the community renewal scrutiny committee at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) revealed that the development of a contracted bus services network, which plugs the gaps left by commercial operators, had also increased the use of public transport.

The report says that this has introduced more stability into service provision, allowing people to reduce their use of a car, or even dispense with one altogether and use public transport instead.

Before the free bus passes came into being, Bridgend issued 5,600 concessionary fare passes of its own but this has risen to more than 30,400 free bus passes being issued to local residents.

Free bus pass holders in Bridgend made more than 2.1m journeys at a cost of more than £3m in the last year. The average fare is £1.45p.

Bus services in Bridgend are provided in two ways – mainstream services which usually operate in the day and are provided commercially

by bus operators with no payment at all from the council – and council provided services.

On the commercial side, each route has to make a profit, so that the service can continue because bus companies are not allowed to subsidise loss-making routes with profits from successful ones.

This means that commercial services generally only operate between 7am and 6pm Monday to Saturday. Outside of these hours, the council pays for services to run.

These services are the contracted bus network services provided outside the core daytime hours plus all services on Sundays, and run to areas where there is no other service provision.

The council has the power to run those services which would not otherwise be provided by a commercial operator. Some of these buses operate in areas outside the commercial network and are the only services provided.

The council has to fully-fund almost all early morning, evening and Sunday services. It also fully funds minor diversions to routes which are commercially operated.

The majority of daytime services are, however, provided on a commercial basis and receive no funding from the council. Therefore, it has

no power to intervene in the way they are run and cannot vary times or routes.

When the council provides a service, it pays the full cost of providing it. This remains the same regardless of how many people use the service.

Most services are an extension of the daytime commercial services into the evenings, so that each area continues to receive a service after commercial operations would have ended.

In other cases where this is not possible, the council pays the full costs of a service like the Bridgend to Blaengarw via Pontyrryl (Braichycymer) or Bridgend to Talbot Green via Heol y Cyw.

The average cost per passenger to the council is £1.60p and contracted services provided by the council carry almost half a million passengers.

The council's services are subject to regulation by the Welsh Assembly and by the Wales Audit Office, and the council also tries to assess their effectiveness by regular bus users UK surgeries.

The cost of providing the contracted services is covered by the council's public transport budget

of £546,130, plus a WAG grant of £463,130.

The WAG grants have enabled the council to restore most Sunday services and also covered some completely new routes and diversions.

They have also allowed the council to take on routes that bus operators have de-registered because they are no longer financially viable.

The report adds: "It is evident that the public transport strategies adopted by this council are working. Bridgend has one of the most extensive commercially-operated bus networks in the south Wales region, and on this foundation it has been possible to build the contracted bus service network of today."

BCBC believes that the network demonstrates to both the public and to bus companies the council's commitment to removing social exclusion by increasing accessibility to public transport and facilitating a "shift" away from the car.

This gives the public confidence to use public transport and bus operators the confidence they need to invest in new buses and services.

## Cut backs for playschemes

**SUMMER holiday playschemes throughout Bridgend county borough are to be cut back because of a reduction in funding from Bridgend County Borough Council.**

The council has halved the budget from £62,000 to £30,000 for this summer, and wants to reduce the overall number to have larger, more strategically placed schemes.

It hoped to have at least one within the catchment areas of each comprehensive school in the borough. This would mean one for Maesteg, Porthcawl, Ogmogre, Garw, Kenfig Hill, Bryntirion, Pencoe and Bridgend.

However, this depends on town and community councils contributing towards them. Last year, they put in £24,000 in total.

A report to the town and community council forum revealed that attendances at these playschemes has been falling, as children have other activities, including free swimming provided by the Welsh Assembly Government and activities organised at leisure and sports centres.

A majority of children attending are also Bridge Card holders.

Town and community councils which serve more remote or rural areas will be able to organise their own summer holiday schemes but will have to meet the full costs themselves.

## Guest house is no longer

**PERMISSION has been given by Bridgend planners for a former Porthcawl guest house to be turned into a house.**

The development control committee heard that the property at 1, Esplanade Avenue, located at the Gordon Road end of the street, had failed a fire inspection and needed a substantial amount of work to bring it up to standard, which the landlady could not afford. She has since sold the premises to the current owners.

They intend to demolish a two storey extension and replace it with a new single storey extension for a study, utility room and WC.

## Family fundraising for the Sandville centre and Haiti

**SIAN and David Jones of Nottage, Porthcawl, with the help of their two daughters, Felicity and Samantha, recently held a fundraising lunch at their home in Nottage village.**

Tickets for the spicy lunch of assorted curries with rice salad and bread were a very reasonable £5 and beer, wine and soft drinks were also on sale.

Approximately 50 people attended and a staggering total of £782 was raised.

Sian Jones said: "In the weeks leading up to the lunch, I made all the curries in batches and then froze them. It was simply a case of reheating on the day."

"People were very generous, donating lovely raf-

fe prizes and the slogan for the day was – Be altruistic and have another drink!

"Everyone enjoyed themselves for the two worthwhile causes and we have been asked to make this an annual event!"



ABOVE: All smiles at the fundraising lunch.

## Lifeguards give Sandy Bay a spring clean-up

**THINGS are happening down on Sandy Bay in Porthcawl, and across at Rhych Point, the new lifeguard station is appearing.**

In the meantime, Porthcawl Lifeguard Club (PLGC) has been busy preparing for a new season and has given Sandy Bay its first spring clean.

Last year, the club 'adopted' the beach under the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) Beachwatch scheme.

There will be four clean-ups each year, and records will be kept of the type and quantity of rubbish found. This is on



Spring clean on the beach.

top of the regular clean-ups that club volunteers carry out when they can.

The four MCS clean-ups are also an opportunity for local people who believe in looking after their beautiful beaches to join in.

The club kicked things

off on Sunday, March 28, and club captain Steph Davenport said afterwards: "I want to say a huge thank you to all who turned up for the first beach clean of the season."

"It was good to see people who don't just moan about the rubbish but do something about it. We're averaging 30 members per clean and are getting better each time at recording."

The second MCS Beach Clean of 2010 is

being arranged, and plans to involve local schools on Friday, June 25, with other community organisations providing information and activities for the kids.

Steph added: "All this effort shows a real commitment by locals to improving and enjoying their own environment and everyone is welcome to join in. Contact the PLGC secretary by email time at recording." on secplgc@hotmail.com or look for us on Facebook."

## Axe poised over trees at Maesteg

**TREES planted only five years ago as part of the Maesteg regeneration scheme may be for the chop.**

Bridgend's cabinet has accepted a series of recommendations from the corporate resources scrutiny committee which set up a special panel to look into the CCTV system operated by the council.

This panel found that the cameras are obscured throughout Commercial Street in Maesteg by the trees planted under regeneration.

There were warnings at the time that the trees could interfere with the cameras, but these were ignored by the council which proceeded with the tree planting scheme.

Now, the cabinet has decided that remedial works needed to provide all existing CCTV cameras with a clear line of sight be undertaken as a priority.

But if obstructions are caused by objects

outside the control of the council, it will be impossible to get clear sight lines for all cameras on the net work.

This restriction will not apply to Maesteg as the trees are owned by the council.

It is not clear at this stage how many of the trees would need to be felled or lopped in order to prevent cameras from being affected. Police have also complained about the effectiveness of the cameras being impaired by the trees.

The cabinet has also agreed to support the purchase of new equipment to bring the CCTV unit up to the required specification so that images can be recorded which can be used as evidence in court. This work is to be completed by December.

The council will also look into areas where the cameras are inhibited by poor lighting. In those cases, action could include upgrading the lighting or by installing higher specification cameras which can operate in poor light.

## News in brief

**A MAP showing the spread of Japanese knotweed throughout Bridgend county borough is being prepared by officers of BCBC, who are looking for information about where there are patches of the invasive weed.**

They are also mapping other invasive species like Ragwort, Parrot feather, Fanweed, Cottoncreeper and Pygmyweed.

**BCBC has applied for a grant under the Welsh Assembly Government's Future Jobs Fund to employ 12 young people aged between 18 and 24 to go around the doorsteps of the borough, talking to people about the new refuse collection service that comes into effect in June.**

The new contract reduces refuse collections from once a week to once a fortnight, but increases the number and type of waste recycling schemes.

There will be a full-scale publicity campaign in the run-up to the changes in June.

**OGMORE Valley Community Council has agreed to pay £6,644 for the Christmas street lighting in the valley, but a complaint will also be registered about the standard of lighting provided by the supplier.**

**OGMORE Valley Community Council has agreed to make a £150 donation to the Bridgend-based charity Home Start which helps local families. Local scouts are to get £50.**

**PLANS have been submitted to build three three-bedroomed terrace houses on the site of the old Gwalia Stores in Ogmogre Vale.**

The stores were bought by the Museum of Welsh Life and have been reconstructed at St Fagan's, where they are a major attraction.

## Council bids for transport plans funding

**A BID for funding for transport schemes in Bridgend worth millions of pounds has been submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government.**

The schemes are included in the regional transport five-year plan which has been put together by SEWTA – the South East Wales Transport Alliance, which consists of all 10 councils in an area stretching from Bridgend east to Monmouth and as far north as Merthyr Tydfil.

The schemes submitted for Bridgend include:

● The Bridgend Transport Interchange costing £2.8m, which will enable buses to pick up and drop off at Bridgend Railway Station using a mini bus station to be built on land alongside.

The feasibility study for this is complete and it is scheduled for implementation in the new financial year, subject to

grant aid being available.

● Improvements to the Broadlands roundabout along the A48 due to cost £750,000. The feasibility study is completed, as are studies to another roundabout along this road – the Ewenny roundabout which is due to cost £1m.

A further scheme to dual the A48 between the Ewenny and Redhill roundabout at Laleston is also in the plan at a cost of £7m. The feasibility study for that is also complete.

● An improvement scheme for the Sam to Maesteg road is also in the plan at a cost of £3.2m.

Other schemes are also included, but for later years from 2012 onwards.

The rail improvement plans to double the number of trains on the Maesteg and Vale of Glamorgan lines – from an hourly to half-hourly service – are being put forward by the Welsh Assembly Government directly as part of the Wales Rail Forward Programme.



## Friends group stages a successful Easter fun day

THE Friends of Brynheulog held their annual Easter Event on Monday, April 29.

The event was kicked off with an Easter egg hunt around Caerau Park with more than 80 young people taking part, followed by a circus skills workshop with Circus Berzerkus, and disco at the Middle Club, which saw more people attending.

The chair, Alison Brain would like to thank the volunteers who turned up on the day to assist.

The group have honoured the memory of a very special woman, Caroline Marlow, who sadly passed away a couple of weeks ago, by creating a shield for the winner of the Easter egg hunt, as

Caroline was a regular volunteer at our events.

The first winner of the 'Caroline Marlow Memorial Shield' was 13-year-old Jake Llewellyn, who received a very large Easter egg on the day and will be presented with the shield by Caroline's daughter Frances at the Saturday Youth club in a few weeks time.

The group would like to thank Maesteg Town Council, Communities First Caerau, Valleys to Coast, Youthworks and Talgarth Bakery for once again supporting the event with their kind donations as well as assisting on the day.

TE



Jake Llewellyn.



Cerys Jones.

## Cash will help elderly to stay in their home

BRIDGEND is to receive a share of £2 million funding to help older people leave hospital more quickly.

Bridgend has been awarded £90,136 for the next financial year to carry out minor but vital adaptations to older people's homes, to allow them to be discharged from hospital more quickly, the Assembly deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Jocelyn Davies, recently announced.

The Rapid Response Adaptations Programme (RRAP) will allow equipment such as ramps, handrails, safety alarms and door entry systems to be fitted. The scheme is administered and monitored by Care and Repair Cymru and delivered by Care and Repair agencies.

Ms Davies said: "The Rapid Response Adaptations Programme provides a valuable service that allows older people across Wales to get back to familiar surroundings more quickly and to continue living safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible."

## Security gates are welcomed

THE NEW gates placed across the entrances to the land running behind Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street have been welcomed by residents.

This information was given to members of Maesteg Town Council, who heard that the gates

were erected by the county borough council, following a gating order for the lane.

Coun Keith Edwards said that everyone was in agreement and saw the need for the gates.

He said: "They are substantial gates and should give residents the peace of mind they deserve. There was a lot going on in that lane."

## Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

BCBC Parks Section – rear of 16 Sedd Goch, Brackla, Bridgend – fell to ground level and remove two elm trees (1964) Glam CC No 03).

Mr S Bond – Great House Hotel, High Street, Laleston – relax standard condition of consent P/05/269/FUL to permit the period of approval for a further five years.

Mrs Evans – 43 Garfield Avenue, Litchard, Bridgend – conservatory to rear. Mr M Davies – Londis, 26/28 Bakers Way, Brynceithin, Bridgend – extension for storeroom, widen and heighten the front entrance and alterations.

Mr S Gore – 64 Heol Tegfryn, Pyle – single storey porch extension. Mr A Evans – 2 Sker Cottages, Waun y Mer, Kenfig, Bridgend – conservatory to rear. Mr M Cooling – 29 Laburnum Drive, Porthcawl – raise roof height with dormer extension to provide

additional living space. Mr S James – land adjacent 1 Dinam Street, Nantymoel, Bridgend – two semi-detached dwellings on site previously occupied by Gilead Chapel. Actseen Ltd – 270 New Road and 270A New Road, Porthcawl – demolish 270A New Road, remove two tree stumps of protected trees at front of 270A and erect 80-bed nursing home.

Mr B Reilly – 48 Crescent Road, Sarn, Bridgend – two storey side extension and extension to detached garage.

Mr L James – 7 Ffordd y Dderwen, Bridgend – pitched roof and rear extension to existing garage. Ms K Fawcett – 21 Park Terrace, Tondur, Bridgend – replace slate roof coverings, gutters/downpipes with cast iron items, replace lime mortar and new door and windows. Mr N Solman – 2 Glanogwr Court,

Church Road, Bridgend – single storey in-fill between garage and bed/garden room to provide en-suite disabled shower and toilet room. Mr R Benyon – 8 Heol West Plas, Litchard, Bridgend – temporary permission for front heras fencing and retain timber top fencing to side of property. Mr Morris – 16 Pen yr Ysgol, Maesteg – bay window to front elevation and new gable feature.

Mr N Witchell – 4 Heol y Derw, Evanstown, Bridgend – two storey side extension for use as granny flat - living room, kitchen and shared utility room and en-suite bedroom above. Taylor Wimpey – Parc Derwen, off parcel R18 off Heol West Plas, Coity, Bridgend – brick built housing for electricity sub-station with a tiled pitch roof. Mr D Jones – 8 Maesteg Road, Tondur, Bridgend – proposed rear first floor bedroom extension. Mr M White – 24

Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer, Bridgend – two storey extension. John Dunkfield and Richards – 21 West End Avenue, Porthcawl – loft conversion including dormer extensions and ground floor internal layout changes.

Mr H Davies – Ty Risca, Derlwyn Road, Tondur, Bridgend – single storey rear side extension. Mr and Mrs L Norman – 104 Yr Ysfa, Maesteg – single storey extension incorporating sun lounge, utility room, store and porch. Mr R Birch – 6 Dennis Place, Brynceithin, Bridgend – to include land to rear into curtilage of property. Cenin Ltd/Teg Environmental Ltd – former Stormy Down airfield southern hangar, Pyle – c/u to provide in-vessel compost facility, air management unit (management - enlarged building).

## NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Tom's lifesaving exploits gather plenty of praise!

**LIFE SAVING** WELL done to Thomas Lewis 6R, Isaac Lewis 6S and Jacob Lewis 5C, who all took part in the British Life Saving Indoor Championships on the 6th March.

Thomas was chosen by Penybont SLSC to represent the club because of his amazing performance last year in the Welsh National indoor event, where he received six medals!

He excelled again this year, winning three silver and one bronze medal in the 11-13 year old category. His first silver came in the mannequin tow race, followed by silver in the rescue tube, where he was partnered by Isaac Lewis.

Tom won yet another medal as part of the rescue medley team and a bronze in the obstacle race.

## SCIENCE WEEK

TO celebrate National Science Week, at Litchard Primary, has been finding out all about science.

Mrs Matthews gave a special assembly where the children were asked what they thought a scientist looked like and what they did.

Using a power point presentation, Mrs Matthews showed the children many famous (and not so famous!) scientists and explain the valuable work they do.

In the afternoon, parents had a chance to view some of the science taught to all the key stages.

## WALK A MILE

WELL done to all the children from both the infant and junior department (and some of the staff!) that walked a mile for Sport Relief.

As the weather was so wet on the Friday, some of the children completed the walk on Monday. Well done, everyone!

## COFFEE MORNING

A VERY big thank you to everybody who supported the eisteddfod coffee morning.

We were treated to a selection of prize winning performances from the children in both singing and dancing and managed to raise £45, which the school will be donating to Sport Relief.

## TAG RUGBY

THE boys and girls of year-3 are really enjoying Tag rugby sessions with the Ospreys, despite the recent cold weather.

We would like to thank the Ospreys for taking the time to visit our school. It is much

appreciated.

## GOOD LUCK, ELLIE!

WE would like to wish Ellie Butcher 6R good luck when she represents Wales in Slovakia in the Slovakian Open Aerobic Championships during the Easter holidays.

Ellie is also a member of the British Aerobic Squad. Fingers crossed for a medal!

## WELL DONE!

WELL done to Nathan Alexander 4F on achieving his National Plan Stage 5 swimming award and his Rainbow 10m Butterfly award; and to Zoë Mountjoy 5C on passing her Stage 12 gymnastic grading award.

## THANK YOU

A BIG Thank You to Walters UK for providing the school with nine tonnes of earth from its construction site.

It will be used by the infant children to fill the raised flower beds that Mrs Pope organised for the school.

## PARC SLIP VISIT

CHILDREN of year-5 visited the Parc Slip Nature Reserve on Monday and despite the wet weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed their day.

They started the day with orienteering, then pond dipping (Matthew Bird managed to find a frog!).

The children also had a chance to sketch what they found in the pond before ending the day with a question and answer session.

## WELCOME

LITCHARD Primary would like to welcome Mrs Bryant as the new school crossing patrol assistant at the mission church, starting on Monday, April 12.

## INVESTORS AWARD

LITCHARD Junior School was successful in renewing the Investor in People award.

The IIP award is based on a very strict criteria. It involved a comprehensive scrutiny of procedures by an external assessor.

We did indeed meet the standards; in fact, we had a very positive report from both pre and full assessments. So a big thank you to everyone.

## RUGBY

WELL done to Ryan Kershaw and Morgan David 5M who both play for Tondur under-10s.

Tondur beat Cwmavon 30-20 in a match on March 21. Congratulations also go to two former pupils,

Tom Habberfield and Matthew Morgan, on playing for the Welsh under-18s squad in the Six Nations tournament.

## BOOK FAIR

THANK you to everyone who supported the school book fair.

We are pleased to say that the school received books to the value of £400.

## AWARDS

ON March 26, we held a special assembly to award certificates and prizes for the top house point scorers and the winning house.

Well done and congratulations to the following two top house point scorers from each class:

3S Leah Harding and Rebecca Biggs; 4F Iestyn Thomas and Niamh Mullens; 4H Caitlin Davies and Cerrig John; 5C Elin Obaid and Tyler Hurley; 5M Steffanie Brookes and Megan Pilliner; 6S Adam Streeter and Sian Woolcock; 6R James Birmingham and Chloe Baker; 6H Daniel Jenkins and Ella Edwards; TM Elliot Davies and Alex Timbrell.

## CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATION S to the following children for their superb achievements:

**NURSERY** – Lois Davies received a certificate for Latin dancing and a Duckling 3 award for swimming. Evie Llewellyn achieved a Duckling 2 and 3 certificates for swimming.

Well done to Maddison Edwards and Erin Thompson on completing the Sports Mile.

## THANK YOU

MRS TATCHELL would like to say thank you to parents for sending in box top vouchers.

Also a reminder that the nursery children are visiting Rockwool on April 15.

## RECEPTION

WELL done to Freya Yaw on receiving her Duckling 1 certificate for swimming.

## CLASS 1G

MEGAN Donaghue, Emelia Lewis, Lauren Webster and Hollie Edwards have made their Rainbow promise.

Lewys Hall received a certificate of merit for piano book 1 and Lauren Webster the swimming National Plan award stage 4.

Emelia Lewis received the Rainbow Distance award for 5m front crawl and the National Plan swimming award stages 2 and 3. Ben Crowley, Lauren Webster and Luke Florence received Sportstar Superstars certificate.

Lucy Florence received the Duckling Stage 3 swimming award and Ben Crowley received a swimming achievement certificate.

## CLASS 1M

BRYONY Llewellyn achieved her swimming National Plan award stage 2.

Daniel Thompson received a sports mile medal and Jac Biggs received Duckling awards 3 and 4 for swimming.

James Alexander received 5m Rainbow Award and his National Plan Swimming Award Stage 2.

## CLASS 2H

KIERAN Chalmers was named man of the match for Tondur recently and Ella Jones received her 100m distance award for swimming.

## CLASS 2P

WELL done to Dafydd Rees, who was lucky enough to be a runner-up in a Formula Hot Wheels competition – he won a Criss Cross Crash set.

Ellis Penman played rugby for Bridgend Athletic in Gloucester on March 21 and won both matches.

Ryan Neagle and William Watkins played rugby away against Llanharan on March 21 and Ryan was the captain!

Eleri Thompson received her Octopus 2 swimming award.

## YEAR 2 OUT AND ABOUT

THE children of year-2 visited the Swansea Waterfront Museum and Jerusalem Baptist Church in Briton Ferry.

Andy and Lillian from the church commented on how well they behaved.

Eleri Thompson 2P said: "I liked it when we went upstairs in the church. Andy played us some nice DVDs."

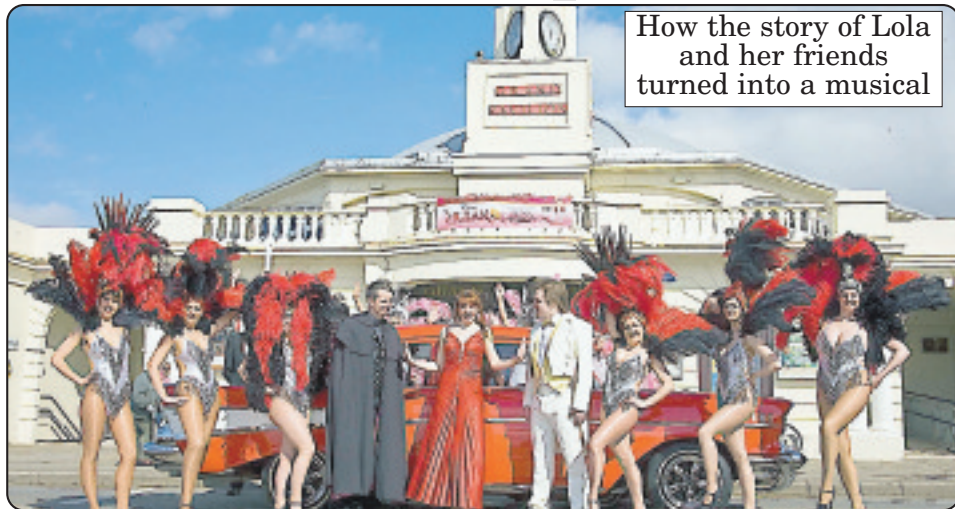
Grace George said: "I liked it when Andy baptized Sinead and Euan from Mrs Hughes's class."

Olivia Howe commented: "I liked watching the film about the Steel Works (Port Talbot) in the museum. I didn't like the stuffed animal in the glass case!"



# Porthcawl show hopes to capture the magic of Manilow's Copacabana

How the story of Lola and her friends turned into a musical



ABOVE: Colourful line-up in Porthcawl, with Kim Danter (in red dress) as Lola.

**PORThCAWL** Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (PAODS) stopped the traffic and turned a few heads recently in the town when they spent the day promoting their next show – Barry Manilow's musical based on his big hit, Copacabana.

The cast were in costume for the day, including a chorus of showgirls in cutaway silver leotards and head dresses with more ostrich feathers than a David Attenborough nature documentary.

There was even a genuine American Cadillac, supplied courtesy of a Pencoed vintage car club.

The PAODS show will run for four days later this month, from April 28 until May 1, at the Grand Pavilion, and it will be directed by Simon H West, with choreography by Emma-Jayne Parker and musical direction by Michael Ploymman.

The show derives, not surprisingly, from Manilow's big hit single, 'Copacabana' and he was persuaded to expand the song, and tell the

story of Lola the showgirl, Tony the bartender and Rico the gangster, in more detail.

Working with two of his regular collaborators, Jack Feldman and Bruce Sassman, he turned it into a full-scale musical, first for US TV, and then as a long-running show in another casino and nightclub centre, Atlantic City.

The show came to the West End in London in 1994 and ran for two years. In fact, it is surprising that it does not get performed more often.

A school production by Archbishop McGrath RC School several years ago proved to be terrific fun (and this writer is not a Barry fan).

Another bonus for musical fans is the casting of Kim Danter as Lola. Yet another past member of the Bridgend Youth Theatre (and one of its start performers) Kim is now training as a nurse, and her smile in the photograph is pretty good going, considering she had just arrived after a night duty in A & E in Cardiff! **PI**

## AM offers support

**THE Vale** Conservative candidate, Alun Cairns, is supporting villagers at Ogmores-by-Sea in their fight to stop the Sealawns public house from being converted into flats.

Mr Cairns said that he was closely involved in the earlier successful fight, and gave evidence at a planning inquiry in support of the objectors.

He said: "A new planning application wants to turn the Sealawns into 17 flats. We have been

fighting this since 2006 and I am disappointed that it has come up again.

"This building is important to the community as a pub and although it has been closed for some time, villagers would like it re-opened. It is the hub of their community and acts as a focal point for village life."

He added: "The community will once again have to pull together to see off this plan and I will be giving whatever support I can to them."

# TV's Justina organises charity beach canter

TV news presenter Justina Simpson will be leading the way on a breast cancer charity 'beach canter' at Ogmores-by-Sea on Sunday, April 11 – but walkers are welcome as well.

The charity event aims to raise money for a new diagnostic, treatment and consultation centre at Llandough Hospital, and it will begin at 12 noon from the Pelican Inn.

Justina, who is a former pupil of Cowbridge Comprehensive School, told The GEM: "We expect the beach ride to take three hours, and everyone is welcome, not just horse riders."

The event has been organised by Justina and her ITV colleague Mariclare Carey Jones, and they also hope to



ABOVE: Justina Simpson will be riding her horse, Black Topper, on the charity beach canter at Ogmores-by-Sea.

have some other faces, least £10, and there may still be time to hire a screen, taking part on the horse (cost £25).

The event is organised in association with the Ogmores Farm Riding Centre. Further information can be obtained by contacting eroad-knight@aol.com or telephone 02920 745465.

# Family of young mother wins a £350,000 settlement

**THE family of a young Bridgend mum of two, who died from an aggressive cancer after being sent home from hospital three times, has received a £350,000 out of court settlement.**

Lavinia Blechly (23) who was a full time student at University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, first became unwell in May 2004, just a few months after the birth of her second child. She died in late March 2005.

The family were represented by Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, and received an out-of-court settlement of £350,000 last week.

The solicitors said that when Lavinia first felt unwell in May 2004, a number of examinations during the following eight months ruled out gynaecological problems, but Lavinia continued to complain of pain in her abdomen and pelvis.

In February 2005, a pelvic ultrasound revealed a cyst and an exploratory operation revealed fluid above the liver.

Over the next three weeks, Lavinia was admitted on three separate occasions to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

The solicitors said she was told that there was no medical reason for the pain she was in.

Finally, on March 7, 2005, Lavinia underwent a CT scan leading to further surgery – which revealed an extensive malignant tumour had encased her bowel and spread up to her stomach.

an urgent programme of chemotherapy, but then suffered a ruptured bowel which caused peritonitis, leading to multi organ failure. She passed away on March 24, 2005.

Lavinia leaves behind two daughters, Shaile (now aged nine) and Chloe (now aged six) as well as her partner and the father of both children, Justin Tellem.

Lavinia's father, Arthur Blechly, said: "Justin and I are both extremely angry that the hospital took four years to admit liability and even now no one seems to have been held accountable for what happened."

ABM University Health Board said it offered its sincere condolences to Lavinia's family.

A spokeswoman said: "Incidents of this kind are taken very seriously and a full inquiry was carried out by the former Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust at the time, which included investigations by several independent clinical experts."

"This was a very complex case, involving many different clinical specialities and processes.



ABOVE: Lavinia with her daughters Shaile and Chloe.

es. We were assured by the reports from the independent clinical experts, which produced no evidence of any 'gross failings' on the part of hospital staff.

"We are always anxious to learn lessons from incidents like these to ensure everything can be done to reduce the risk of them reoccurring."

The spokeswoman added: "A decision was taken to settle this claim out of court to avoid prolonged legal proceedings which could result in substantial costs."

PHOTOGRAPHS ABOVE by MALCOLM NUGENT

## COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL  
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, 'Tynewydd', Llangan. (01656) 860303



**Dawn liturgy** WITH the moon playing hide and seek behind the clouds, I made my way to the lovely St Mary Hill church for the Easter Sunday and Liturgy.

Many in the congregation were drawn from a wide area and included Mrs Susan Thomas, who had lived in Llangan until a few months ago when she and her husband, David, moved to Llangeinor. While living in Llangan, they were both regular worshippers at St Mary Hill church.

At 5.30am, Rev Val Hamer led the congregation outside, but sadly, due to the high wind, we were unable to light our candles.

Prayers continued inside the church where we were able to continue the service by candlelight.

Breakfast was then served to everyone. A big thank you to Mrs Mary Lloyd, Gareth and Simon, and to all those who worked so hard to

prepare the meal and serve it to the congregation.

**Christening** IT was almost standing room only at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday, April 4 for the christening of Aimee Claire James.

There were smiles all through the service; she really is a delightful child and her great grandparents, the late Valerie and Des Thomas would have been so proud of her.

The christening service and communion was performed by Rev Alwyn Evans.

**St Canna's** ANYONE wishing to join the St Canna's 100 Club, should contact Gillian Lewis at New Cottage, Llangan, CF35 5DW.

The cost is £10 per share. The draws take place at Easter, Whitsun, Harvest and Christmas. Prizes range from £10-£50.

## Bike study costs

**A STUDY into the prospects of developing mountain biking for leisure and tourism in Maesteg, Ogmores and Garw is set to cost £9,200.**

More than £5,000 of this total is coming from the Welsh Assembly Government via the Western Valleys Regeneration Strategy, with BCBC putting in £1,200.

Part of the study has already been carried out by the Garw Valley Community Council at a cost of £1,500. The council is keen to develop mountain biking and 'link cross' the tops of the mountains with well-established mountain bike tracks in the Afan Valley.

Now, BCBC has asked Maesteg and Ogmores councils to each put in £1,500 to match what Garw has done.

Maesteg Town Council has referred the matter to its finance committee for consideration.

Routes in the Llynfi Valley are likely to be north of Maesteg and in the Caerau area, leading over towards Croeserw and Cymer.

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# Thanksgiving service and celebrations keep everyone busy at Sandville Centre

## PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

**STAFF and volunteers at the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Ton Kenfig have been busy recently, with a number of events taking place.**

A thanksgiving service was held at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Sandville Foundation. The church collection amounted to £670, a record for Sandville.

As it was close to the date when Sister Gwyneth Poacher celebrated her birthday, the congregation sang a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday'.

The service was conducted by Rev Ian Rees, the Vicar of Pyle with Kenfig, and the address was given by the Rev Irving Hamer, Vicar of Roath St. Martin, Cardiff, a former chaplain of Sandville.

A reception was held at the centre after the service, and a cheque for £8,500 was presented to Gwyneth by Arthur Beale.

This included the proceeds from the Twelfth Night fancy dress gala at the Hi-Tide. The amount raised this year was £500 more than the previous year!

Refreshments at the reception were donated by Beales Fish and Chip Restaurant, Porthcawl, and 'Dicky Doughnuts', of Bridgend Trading Estate.

Mike Stubbs also presented a Twelfth Night DVD to Gwyneth (available on 01656 784471, cost £10, with proceeds going to Sandville).

There was entertainment from The 'Severn' Riverdancers (fresh from their stage debut at the Hi-Tide, and from the Porthcawl Ukulele Band.

Later in the month, a joint formal visit was made to Sandville by Coun Rosemary Deere, the Mayor of Porthcawl, accompanied by her consort, Coun David Deere, along with Lord Kenfig, Lindsay Morgan, the president of the Porthcawl and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce, accompanied by Lady Kenfig, Mrs. Margaret Morgan.

The visiting party was shown around Sandville by the manager, Gary Banks.

The Sandville now has its own website:

[www.sandville.org](http://www.sandville.org)  
It is run by Simon Munger, a Sandville volunteer, who helped with the original setting up by Porthcawl Comprehensive School student Jamie Bowen. Jamie is in year-12 and is currently doing ICT and computing courses.



ABOVE: Win and Ceri Griffiths.



ABOVE: The Rev Ian Rees with Gwyneth, Gary, Ken and Vince from the Sandville.



RIGHT: The Porthcawl Ukelele Band.



ABOVE: The 'Severn' Riverdancers do an encore at the Sandville!



Mike Stubbs presents Gwyneth with a Twelfth Night DVD.



First Minister Carwyn Jones AM arrives for the church service.



Simon Munger at work on the website.



ABOVE:  
The reception committee welcomes Porthcawl Mayor Coun Rosemary Deere.  
Left, she presents Gwyneth Poacher with a town plaque.



ABOVE: The Rev Irving Hamer with Peggy Parish and Gwyneth.



RIGHT:  
Arthur Beale presents Gwyneth with a cheque for £8,500.





# 38 YEARS ON THE BENCH... Retiring magistrate recalls being thrown in at the deep end!

**THE second longest-serving magistrate in the whole of Britain has just retired from the bench at Barry.**

Mary Mossford was 70 last week and the rules state that JPs have to stand down before their 70th birthday.

Mrs Mossford, who lives in Penarth, was only 32 when she was first appointed to the bench – one of the youngest magistrates ever. She has now completed 38 years in the post.

"There is a trend today for younger magistrates, but in those days I was the baby of the court," she recalled. "There was no training and no interviews – you were simply proposed by someone and the Lord Chancellor said yes or no – and then you just went in at the deep end. I was taking part in decisions on my first day. You learnt the ropes as you went along."

Mrs Mossford said that everything had changed now, with magistrates training for a year and sitting in court as observers before they start presiding.

"When I started, there was a court in Penarth which closed and then I sat in Cowbridge, which has also closed. The only court we have left in the



Photograph by JEFF BAKER.

Vale is at Barry."

Mrs Mossford recalled that when she was first appointed, all lady magistrates wore hats in court – a practice which has now died out – but she revived the custom on her last day by sporting a splendid hat to her farewell ceremony when she was thanked for her years of service by David Taylor, chairman of the bench. Garth James, one of the solicitors, also paid tribute to her work.

"It was an enjoyable occasion and there were no tears, although I will miss everyone," she said. "I felt it was time for me to go."

"Being a magistrate has been a huge commitment and is totally unpaid. It is even more onerous these days because there is constant training, which has to be undertaken to deal with changes in the laws and in sentencing."

"But I sometimes feel

that younger magistrates are too tied by sentencing guidelines and I always point out that they are just guidelines and you can go against them, provided you state your reasons in court."

Mrs Mossford comes from a prominent Cardiff family. Her father was Dr Clifford Bence, who was a GP and also Lord Mayor of Cardiff. He was the first Conservative to represent the Splott ward – which is where his patients lived!

"My family were keen on public service and on giving something back; my father was an alderman for many years."

Mrs Mossford attended Cheltenham Ladies College and met her husband Clive at a tennis tournament. He attended Cheltenham Boys College and was also from Cardiff. They were born half a mile apart and within three days of each

other.

Mrs Mossford worked in the NHS as a physio-therapist and some of her work was with handicapped children in Ely.

She served on the Family Practitioner Committee and also did some conciliation work for the NHS.

Mrs Mossford has also served on a number of magistrates' bodies, including representing Wales on the British Juvenile and Family Courts Committee. She gave that up when she had heart surgery.

Mr Mossford is a chartered accountant who also helped run his family's monumental masons business in Cardiff.

Mrs Mossford is a keen golfer and hopes to have more time for the sport. She is also vice-president of the old girls association of Cheltenham Ladies College and enjoys playing bridge.

She is also a Kentucky Colonel – an honour she shares with many illustrious people, including Sir Winston Churchill.

"I was appointed by the governor because of some work I did to support my husband's firm which was based in Kentucky. We went to a ceremony in the governor's mansion," she recalled.

# RATES PACKAGE IS A WELCOME RELIEF for Welsh business and public services

**THE additional rate relief package for small businesses announced in the Budget will be a boost for businesses in the Vale.**

This will mean that around half of small businesses in Wales will pay no business rates for the year from October 1, 2010 and roughly 20 per cent more will see their business rates reduced significantly.

The details of these changes announced by the Chancellor will be important to Vale businesses and my office is always ready to advise and provide further information on these important announcements following the rate relief boosts announced at Christmas by our Local Government Minister, Carl Sargeant.

The latest move involves an increase in the rateable value threshold at which properties will qualify for 100 per cent relief to £6,000 and a taper band of relief from 100 per cent to 50 per cent up to a threshold of £12,000 from the October date for one year.

The UK and Welsh Assemblies Governments have worked together to secure this support for

businesses as part of the plan to support the upturn of the economy as we move out of recession, but we know how fragile this is as we seek to support business and drive efficiency and innovation in our public services.

Major investment in the Welsh Assembly regional transport plans will also be a welcome boost for public services in Wales involving over £9million for the south east Wales region. This includes over £460,000 for the Vale of Glamorgan – an increase in last year's local transport grant supporting local bus and community transport services.

This will support the vital services provided by VEST (Voluntary Emergency Transport), (DPVC) Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, East Vale Community Transport and Greenlinks – a new project for the rural Vale – as well as supporting a number of important bus routes.

This enables disabled and elderly people to get to important hospital appointments but also to access shops and services.

It was great to see the investment in the new facilities for disabled

## GUEST COLUMN



by Jane Hutt AM  
(Assembly Minister for Business and Budget)

people and their carers at Cowbridge Leisure Centre last week, joining Seth and Sol Jorgensen at the new changing places facility fully equipped for adults and children, to enable disabled people to access the gym and personal trainers at the centre. This will help boost business at the leisure centre for so many people.

A recent report for the Welsh Assembly Government has shown how free prescriptions in Wales have increased equity and access for patients who were not previously entitled to free prescriptions with asthma, heart disease or an organ transplant, helping them to lead

more independent lives and reducing the risk of unnecessary emergency admissions to hospital.

It is also important that we recognise the importance of our investment in services to support the most vulnerable and unprotected members of society including those who experience violence in the home.

A new strategy to protect women and children has been launched by the Welsh Assembly Government. 'The Right to be Safe' includes a number of initiatives and additional funding of £1 million to expand services offered by the Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline, as well as measures to tackle trafficking and to boost educational understanding and awareness, through our personal and social educational framework.

Our access to European funds is also important for business and the public as we plan to use up to £34 million to improve energy efficiency in housing in Wales.

As well as supporting renewable energy generation measures, this will help cut carbon emissions and fuel bills, as well as providing a major boost to support green jobs in Wales.

## 'New military museum could boost tourism'

— says an MP

**MP John Smith claims that a planned military history museum at the £12billion Defence Technical College (DTC) in St Athan could attract up to 10,000 visitors to the area each year.**

In a report recently approved by the Vale Council, it was revealed that a planned 6,800 square metres museum of military history at the site could generate up to 10,000 visitors each year.

The Vale MP, who championed the St Athan bid, said: "This is great news for the whole area and I believe it's just the start."

"It shows the golden opportunities that are up for grabs for our local businesses."

"I want the local business community to get the lion's share of the business opportunities created by the St Athan project once it is up and running."

"That's why I am encouraging local bed



John Smith: thumbs up for a visitors bonanza.

and breakfasts and hotels to start thinking about increasing their bed spaces.

"I would also encourage retailers to come up with innovative ways of marketing their products and services, to ensure they get a slice of what visitors will spend locally."

"If we pull out all the stops, there is no reason why we can't attract 100,000 visitors each year, as we did during the height of the popularity of the beaches of Barry Island."

## MAESTEG NEWS IN BRIEF

### Post office queues discussed at council

**CONCERNS about the level of service provided by Maesteg Post Office were raised at Maesteg Town Council by Coun Phil Jenkins.**

In a letter to the council, he said that a lack of investment and staff shortages had resulted in long queues and excessive waiting times for customers, particularly the elderly and infirm.

He said that it had also been forced to close early on several occasions because it had run out of money to service clientele.

He said: "This is unacceptable when post offices are under threat. This office is an extremely well-used facility and needs support from the Post Office to expand and provide the many services that are advertised in the media."

The council has decided to write to Post Office Ltd, asking it to look into the matter. Copies of the letter have been sent to Ogmore MP

Huw Irranca Davies and Ogmore AM Janice Gregory.

Maesteg has lost three post offices in recent years with the closures of Bethania Street,

Maesteg Parc and Bridgend Road. This means that town residents only have the post office in the town centre to use for their business.

### Town to get new public toilets

**IT IS now full steam ahead for the provision of a public toilet in the Llynfi Road car park in Maesteg.**

The town council has received permission from BCBC, which owns the freehold of the car park, and from Four Seasons development, who are the leaseholders.

The council has been given the right to install a "tardis" type public toilet on land at the front of the car park. The cost of providing the toilet is being met by the town council.

Members have been campaigning for years for replacement toilets for the block which was

sold off by BCBC to Wilkinsons and subsequently demolished so that their store could be extended.

Money obtained by BCBC for the site was never ring fenced to replace the toilets, despite some initial information that money had been set aside. In the end, the town council decided to put up the money itself.

The groundwork for the toilets is due to start soon.

Coun Bill May said that the town council needs to discuss the question of what charges it will make for using the toilet. This will be discussed at a later date.

**join in!**  
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\* Messages are charged at your standard network rate  
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# Rotary Young Musician Zone 3 final takes place

THE magnificent Bradenstoke Hall in St Donats Castle echoed to the sound of seven talented young instrumentalists on the evening recently.

The Zone Three final of the Rotary Young Musician competition was held in this historic setting, the home of The United World College of the Atlantic, an international sixth form college overlooking the Bristol Channel.

Competitors were all winners of their local competitions from the Rotary clubs of Maesteg, Bridgend, Porthcawl, Neath, Swansea Valley, Llantwit Major and Port Talbot.

Hannah Thomas, a cellist from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, played a selection of music from J S Bach, Gabriel Fauré and Schumann.

She was followed by violinist Lucy Noden, a student at Brynateg Comprehensive School, who played pieces from Grieg and Monti.

Sara Friel, who is a student at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, played two pieces on the



ABOVE: The Zone Three final competitors.

flute by Poulenc and Garibaldi.

The only brass instrumentalist, Frances Folland, a student at Dyffryn School, Port Talbot, played the euphonium with pieces by Alan Menken and Charles Gounod.

Kate Colwell, who played the viola, was highly commended by the judges for her performance of *Concerto in G Major* by Telemann and *Christmas Dance* by Vaughan Williams.

Kate attends Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

The runner-up in the competition was harpist Stephanie Chick who attends Howells School in Cardiff.

Stephanie played three

pieces, Glinka's *Nocturne*, *Passacaille* by Handel and *Au Matin - Étude de Concert* by Tournier.

The competition winner, Luke Millard, a 16-year-old cellist who attends Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, played *Kol Nidrei* by Max Bruch and the first movement of Edouard Lalo's concerto, with consummate skill and musicianship.

The adjudication panel was made up of Sally Tarlton, Sally Matheson and Helena Braithwaite, a well-known leading figure in the youth music scene in south Wales, stretching over many years.

The Master of Ceremonies for the

evening was Sandra Townsend, assistant district governor of Rotary District 1150, who announced that the winner, Luke Millard, would go on to compete against other zone winners at the grand final of the competition at the Taliesin Theatre, Swansea University, on Saturday, May 8.

In closing the evening, Gareth Rees, who is president of the host Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, said that he was extremely impressed with the high standard achieved by the competitors, who ranged in age between 13 and 17 years of age, and he wished Luke well in the final.

TC



ABOVE: Winner Luke Millard with Gareth Rees.



ABOVE: Runner-up Stephanie Chick.

## Your chance to share the community news

### Family fun

MR MARTIN GRIFFITHS, head-teacher of Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangeinor, thanks everyone, especially the PTFA, who organised the recent family fun night at the Richard Price centre.

That included the management at the centre for the use of the building and Communities First, who provided funds towards the cost of entertainment and the buffet.

The evening was a tremendous success and raised £216.03, which the school will use to help purchase IT equipment for the school hall.

Perhaps a local company would like to provide sponsorship?

### Choir was appreciated

MEMBERS of Garw Valley male choir thank staff and residents at Glanffrd nursing home for their wonderful reception when the choir sang an entertaining programme, which earned tremendous applause, followed by a sumptuous buffet.

The choir recently performed at Cowbridge Town Hall in aid of the RNLI, with a medley of songs in Welsh and English, including audience favourites 'Calon Lân' and 'American Trilogy'.

The guest soloist was Adam Lewis, who had just completed the leading role in *Beauty and the Beast* at the Parc and Dare Theatre, Treorchy.

His rendering of 'Dy Garu Di O Bell' (I Love You From Afar) and 'I Can't Love Her' from the musical *Beauty and the Beast* was worthy of any West End star.

The choir also had two soloists in Alan Walters who sang 'Dafydd Y Garreg Wen' (David of the White Rock) and David Rees, who sang 'I Dreamed a Dream' from *Les Misérables*.

The choir is at Pontycymer rugby club on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Visitors are invited to join in the rehearsals, under musical director Bryan Young.

For more information, telephone 'Dixie' on 01656 870304; or e-mail [pontycymer.po@btconnect.com](mailto:pontycymer.po@btconnect.com).

**Dedicated volunteers**  
I RECENTLY attended a concert organised by the Ogmere Valley Ladies Choir to raise funds for First Responders in Ogmere Valley.

While there, I met Peter and Jill, who are members of this dedicated group of volunteers, which provides back-up to the ambulance service on emergency calls.

All volunteers are fully trained in first aid. They told me they provided someone on call for 24 hours, seven days

### NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: [tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk)



a week. They provide most of their equipment themselves, such as defibrillators, which cost £1,500 each and they have two.

The bags in which they carry dressings and ointments cost them £60 each, and their regulatory uniform jackets £70 each. The group recently purchased a training dummy, which cost £900.

It also regularly provides first aid training at local schools and youth clubs, and is prepared to give talks and first aid training to any interested party throughout the county borough.

### Cultural exchange

OGMORE Vale primary school head-teacher, Paul Booth, will contact relatives of year-6 pupils who are going on the trip to London, after the Easter holidays, to arrange details for the trip.

He asks if any local families would enjoy hosting young people from another country.

They are among students from all over the world in British universities and would love to spend a weekend sharing in family life.

The families could have fun introducing them to British food, customs, the local community and area.

For more information, call Lynette Chappin on 02920 693903, organiser in south Wales for the national charity *Host*.

**Oldest club?**  
IS Nantaffylon rugby football club the oldest club in Bridgend county borough?

Originally known as the Spelters RFC, a reference to the iron works which existed in the area, photographic proof has been provided of Spelters RFC, which corroborates information given by elders of Nantaffylon, that the club originally played in a field by the 'Hearts of Oak' in 1898.

There also exists an admission ticket to a game played by the club in aid of the British Red Cross in 1912.

It played under a variety of names before 1952, when it became known as the Nantaffylon RFC.

Along with the name changes, there were a number of headquarters changes - such as the Oddfellows Hotel, Will Watkins café, the New Institute, Traveller's Rest, Elderbush Hotel and Glyn Waite's café.

It was at the Elderbush in 1958 that the club launched the black bag scheme. This enabled the club to buy the freehold of land in Blossie Street, and it was then able to develop the playing field.

With the help of a loan from the Fernelva Brewery, it built the clubhouse. The loan has been repaid and the club is now in a strong financial position.

It has 12 teams playing under its banner, including a ladies team.

### Good wishes

BEST wishes go to Beatrice Alsop-Jones. Beatrice was taken seriously ill and is in the Princess of Wales hospital, Bridgend, where she is slowly recovering, but is likely to remain there for a further four to six weeks.

Beatrice and I have known each other for a few years through her role as the dedicated secretary of Maesteg Children's choir.

I am certain everyone will wish her a full recovery. The Maesteg children's choir will be performing at a concert in the Salvation Army hall, Castle Street, Maesteg, on April 16 and I know all the performers will be thinking of her. The concert, at 7pm, is in aid of the Salvation Army.

Along with the bad news comes good news of her granddaughter Rhian Hughes, a soloist with the choir.

Last week, she attained a grade 8 pass in her singing exam with merits; this is additional to the exam last December where she attained a grade 8 pass with merits in piano.

In August, she will be sitting the grade 8 exam for the clarinet.

Rhian was outstanding in her performance as Dorothy in the recent *Y nysawdre* Comprehensive School production of *Wizard of Oz*, and I believe she will go a long way in her chosen career.

**Young facilities**  
CRAFTS, games and competitions with special prizes will be available to children aged between 5-13 at Horeb chapel, Dinam Close, Nantymoel, today (Thursday, April 8) and April 9, between 4.30pm-6.30pm.

It continues on Saturday, April 10 (1pm-4pm), and on Sunday, April 11 (4.30pm-5.30pm).

This will be followed by a special parents' night service at 6pm.

### Willow warblers

ON Saturday, April 10 between 10am-12noon at the visitors centre, youngsters up to age of 12 are welcome at Parc Slip nature reserve to learn how to weave willows, or find the wildlife that exists under the water by pond dipping.

This is provided free of charge and more information can be obtained on 01656 724100.

On the reserve this week there have been sightings of willow warblers and chaffs, both of which are migratory birds.

I have seen reed buntings and a sparrow hawk, which was hunting prey by flying at low level along a water course.

### Birthday greetings

TO Private Gary Wakefield of the Royal Logistic Corps, who is from Bettws and celebrated his 21st birthday on March 28.

Unfortunately, he is in Selly Oak military hospital after being wounded in Afghanistan.

Gary is the proud recipient of five military medals and I wish him a full recovery from his injuries, and hope he is reunited with his family soon.

## Deadline to register your vote!

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is reminding residents they have just two weeks left to register if they want to vote in the forthcoming general election.

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, this week announced the election will take place on Thursday, May 6 - but anyone whose details do not appear on the electoral register will be unable to cast their vote, either at a polling station or by post.

The last day to apply to register to vote or to apply for a new postal vote is Tuesday, April 20.

To check or register your vote, contact Bridgend County Borough Council's electoral services team on 01656 643116; or visit the electoral services office at the council's Civic Offices in Angel Street, Bridgend.

## Citizens Advice may expand into the attic...

MAESTEG Town Council has agreed to allow the Citizens Advice Bureau, which rents the first floor of the council offices, to investigate the possible use of the attic.

The bureau wrote to the council stating that it is constantly looking to expand its services and, as the attic is unused, it believed that this space may be suitable to convert into extra office space.

CAB states that it has no funding in place to carry out any work, but would like to investigate further.

Coun Keith Edwards stated that the council needs to know what their intentions are and pointed out that the attic was not a load-bearing area.

Coun Terry Mizen

said that the town council should encourage CAB as much as possible, especially if there was a threat of them merging with Bridgend and moving down the valley.

"If we can give them facilities which are better than anything else, we will safeguard their services here," he pointed out.

"Coun Bill May said that Cadw must be involved from the start, as the council offices are a Grade 2 listed building.

He added that professional advice was needed before any plans were drawn up."

This was agreed.

## Students learn from a master

FORMER Turner Prize nominee photographer, Richard Billingham, recently gave an inspiring guest lecture to art and design students at the Bridgend College.

Richard came to prominence through his candid photography of his family in Cradley Heath, a body of work later added to and published in the acclaimed book *Ray's A Laugh* (1996).

He was later shortlisted for the 2001 Turner Prize, for his solo show at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham.

More than 125 students attended the lecture, where they were able to follow Richard's journey in photography from his own foundation



Richard Billingham during the lecture.

art course right through to the global exhibitions and Turner Prize nominated work which has made Richard a prominent figure in the world of photography.

Sharon James (head of school, performing arts) said: "The staff and students felt privileged to be given an insight into Richard's work, as well as a preview of his latest exhibition. To meet an artist of this calibre was truly inspiring."

Richard now lives in Brighton, and is a lecturer in fine art photography at the University of Gloucestershire.

Read your GEM online:  
[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk) or  
[porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://porthcawl-today.co.uk)



## MAESTEG NEWS IN BRIEF

A LETTER of congratulation has been sent by Maesteg Town Council to Connor Joseph, in recognition of his achievement in obtaining the prestigious Chief Scout's gold award through his membership of the Third Maesteg Scout Group.

He is the first local Scout for 10 years to achieve this, and he is now studying for his Young Leader award, so that he can help other youngsters in the valley. MAESTEG Town Council is to release the £5,000 it agreed to donate for the installation of floodlighting at the all-weather sports

pitch at the new Caerau Primary School.

The facility is available to all local sporting organisations, and the work on this is now complete.

A GRANT of £100 has been made by Maesteg Town Council towards the cost of an Easter egg hunt organised by The Friends of Brynheulog (Caerau Parc estate), who also organised a circus skills workshop and a show. The cost of the eggs was £200.

MAESTEG Town Council has agreed to donate £100 towards the Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life.

THE Royal National Institute for the Blind Cymru is to get a

grant of £100 from Maesteg Town Council to help pay for services to blind people and others with visual impairment.

EVAN PRYCE of Turberville Street, Maesteg, has been selected to play for the Boys Clubs of Wales in a match against the Belgian under-17s in Brussels later this month.

Maesteg Town Council has agreed to congratulate him, and donate £100 towards his travel and hotel costs.

PLANS for a BMX track in Caerau on the site of the old Coegnant Colliery behind the Dyffryn Hotel are now well advanced. Coun Phil Jenkins reported back to Maesteg Town Council, which has paid the fee for the planning application to be submitted.

He said that the application was being submitted shortly, and added that residents should realise that the track was for BMX cycles and not off road motorcycles.

MAESTEG Golf Club

has submitted a planning application to install a 45-foot high wind turbine on land near the clubhouse.

A NEW bus shelter is to be erected by Maesteg Town Council at the bus stop near the entrance to Maesteg Cemetery.

The shelter will cost £1,890 plus VAT.

A further meeting is to take place of the Maesteg West ward members to discuss plans to install a length of pavement to serve houses at Nantycrynydd, near Maesteg Sports Centre.

The request for a meeting came from Coun Ian Jones, who is unhappy at the lack of progress. The cost is likely to be £3,300.

THE CAERAU Development Trust has submitted a planning application to change the former Blaenllynfi Infants School into a community facility, including retail and offices.

## News in brief from the Porthcawl Town Council

THE Porthcawl Town Council handyman is to be issued with a distinctive uniform, after he was mistaken by a member of the public for someone carrying out community service.

Councillors agreed that they need to raise the profile of both the council's input into work in the town, which includes carrying out repairs to public seats and cleaning graffiti off walls, and also of the handyman himself.

THE location of a new pedestrian cross-

ing being paid for by the town council has still not been finally confirmed by Porthcawl Town Council, and plans are still at an exploratory stage.

The council has received correspondence from Mr JS Ladbroke of Danygraig Avenue, questioning the plans to put the crossing on Newton Nottage Road.

Some councillors also disagreed with the location and some felt it would be better suited to a different location.

It was agreed that the final decision about the crossing would be taken by full council, once all the facts have been received.

THE ivy around one of the protected trees at St John's Well in Newton is to cut away by the council handyman, and permission will be sought to reduce the crown of another tree.

PORHCRAWL Town Council is to make the following donations: Porthcawl Jazz festi-

val, £300; Bridgend Police School liaison project, £250; Maesteg Gleemen Young Singer of the Year competition, £100. An application from the Porthcawl Athletic Association was turned down.

THE summer musical event in Porthcawl this year takes place on Saturday, May 29.

Local bands are to be invited to come forward to provide entertainment. They must provide a demo CD of their music if available.

### READ YOUR GEM ONLINE -

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or [porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://porthcawl-today.co.uk)

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# THE UNITED STATES BECOMES A STEP CLOSER TO TRAVEL

INTERNATIONAL travellers in the Vale and south Wales can now fly to the United States from Cardiff Airport via Ireland, rather than having to make journeys to Bristol or London for connecting flights.

Aer Lingus is now operating services from Cardiff to Dublin with connections to the USA including New York

by GEM REPORTER

(John F Kennedy Airport), Boston, Chicago and Orlando.

The service is being run under the Aer Lingus Regional brand.

Connecting with transatlantic flights in Dublin allows onward passengers to clear immigration quickly before reaching the USA.

The Dublin flights from Cardiff will see an increase in services, operating three times

daily from Monday to Friday, and on Sundays, with two flights taking place on Saturdays.

Aer Lingus is also operating a daily service to Cork. In total, the two new services will connect Ireland and Wales 52 times each week, offering frequent opportunities to reach Ireland for business or tourism.

The flights have replaced the existing Aer Arann service following the recent announcement that the airline will be operating as a franchise partner of Aer Lingus.

Spencer Birns, Cardiff

Airport's head of air service development, commented: "The new services offer many advantages to south Wales travellers, including better business timings on Cardiff to Dublin flights, and the advantage of being able to clear immigration in Dublin before travelling on connecting flights to the USA.

"Wales has many business links with the US, especially with cities such as New York, Chicago and Boston and these connections will be a major benefit for travellers who visit the States on a regular basis."

## KISS-ME-QUICK OR QUALITY?

Question for resort

The new borough Town Centre manager Rhiannon Kingsley has promised to look at the issue of car parking in Porthcawl town centre.

The council and chamber of trade have both requested that machines similar to those in Bridgend, which dispense a ticket in two parts, should be placed in the town.

These tickets enable shoppers to be reimbursed their parking fee from traders if they spend over a certain sum.

This system was initially introduced in the

Asda car park but was scrapped when Asda unilaterally decided to ditch parking fees and allow shoppers to park for free.

She is also keen to improve links between John Street and the shopping centre at Station Hill and New Road. These areas are separated by the dual carriageway but linked by a subway beneath the road.

Ms Kingsley told the town council that decisions had to be taken about what sort of town Porthcawl was to become – a "Kiss-me-quick" seaside resort or something with more quality.

## 'Getting to know you' meeting

A MEETING is to be organised between Maesteg Town Council and the new town centre manager for Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl.

Rhiannon Kingsley wrote to the council introducing herself and stating that she wants to develop a good working relationship with traders and organisations in the town.

Coun Keith Edwards said that the borough councillors had met her recently and she had plenty of ambition and ideas.

Coun Gareth Howells said that it was essential to develop a relationship with her so that the lessons from the earlier regeneration of the town centre could be learned.

"Some mistakes have been made here in the past – that's the general consensus of the people in town," he said. "It's important that we meet her and get the traders involved. They would welcome that."

But Coun Bill May said that she would organise her own meetings with traders, and the council should meet her on its own.

That was agreed.

## THAT DASTARDLY PIETER VAN BLEUW!

The GEM 'exclusive' in our April 1 issue, detailing outrageous Dutch tycoon Pieter Van Bleuw's plans for a giant blast furnace on the nearby Heritage Coast, prompted a flood of letters to our postbag! Here is a selection of readers' views...

### The April 1st 'spoof' caused quite a stir!

I WOULD like to congratulate The GEM on its April 1 'spoof' about a proposed smelting plant located near Ogmores by Sea on the Heritage Coast!

After an initial near-heart attack followed by a swift realisation that it was only a joke, I can confirm that my phone was red hot with calls from concerned GEM

readers.

I was able to reassure them that there was absolutely no truth in the story and referred them to the date – printed above the piece!

Well done, GEM, for injecting a little humour into our daily lives – even though I had some extra work landing in my lap as a result!

Alun Cairns, Regional AM.

### Good spoof, or was it real?

Congratulations on your April 1 spoof concerning the "proposed blast furnace" destined for Ogmores-by-Sea!

It is good to read some humour in the press these days to lighten the depressing economic news we are forced to endure.

We are so used to reading about government initiatives which have not been thought through or costed, that the proposal you described could just be one of these.

Ogmores-by-Sea has no deep water offshore

to accommodate laden ore carriers, no rail links, or commercial road access – otherwise it is ideal!

More to the point, the fact that existing steelworks are regularly closing due to lack of demand, would make such a proposal a suitable candidate upon which to waste taxpayers' cash on the inevitable inducement grant which seems mandatory before any large inward investment.

Keep up the humorous good work, we need it...or was it for real?

Roger Fuller, Bonvilston

### Will Van Bleuw ever learn ...?

CONGRATULATIONS! The GEM's ace reporters have achieved yet another exclusive scoop involving Pieter Van Bleuw.

These dedicated newshounds are to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts in discovering the latest deadly plan designed to wreck the tranquility and 'green' credentials of The Vale.

Once again, Van Bleuw has been exposed for the dastardly villain that he is, but he is pitting his wits against The GEM's intrepid investigators who previously uncovered his other equally appalling proposals. Will he ever learn?

Interesting that these always seem to surface in the spring, usually at the very beginning of April. Maureen Bennett, Llanblethian

Just like Pieter Van Bleuw, you can read The GEM on line! Log on to: [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk) or [porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://porthcawl-today.co.uk)

### Van Bleuw's plan will boost jobs

I THINK Mr Pieter Van Bleuw's "Euro backed blast furnace plan" would bring a much-needed boost to jobs and investment to Llantwit.

(GEM front page, last week)

I say demolish those old buildings like the Town Hall, St. Iltyds Church and narrow streets, allowing the creation of a new motorway link from Bridgend via St. Donats to service the new docks at the beach, facilitating easy access for all those big lorries.

Cover Colhugh Meadows with concrete and create a designer outlet – no need to worry about funding a new footpath. Plenty of job opportunities while we are waiting for the St

Athan project to be approved.

Close the three small competing supermarkets and replace them with one big Tesco in the town centre. By expansion we could turn the town into a city; who wants all those nice fields and cute little lambs running round? Just makes the place look untidy.

The ideal location of St Donats Castle could become Mr. Bleuw's new adult entertainment production studios and replace Mr. Attenborough's Bridgend film studios which seem to have mysteriously evaporated.

Perhaps all these improvements will encourage Arriva to run a more regular and reliable train service.

Winners all round! James Wild, Llantwit Major.

### Man the barricades!

I READ with abject horror The GEM 'exclusive' on last week's front page, regarding plans for a mammoth coke burning blast furnace and all that goes with it on the Heritage Coast.

This is our country and surely it is for us and our elected representatives to decide what is and is not built here on the basis of what is in our best interests – and it is not for Greater Europe to have these things 'forced through'.

To the barricades boys – and altogether sing 'Tongues of fire on Idris flaring news of foe-men dear declaring...' David Alexander, Barry

### Karma Beauty is backing Help for Heroes

KARMA BEAUTY, now enjoying its second year of trading in Cowbridge, is delighted to be holding a Mad Hatter's tea party in aid of Help For Heroes on Saturday, April 17, from 1pm-4pm.

Help For Heroes is Karma Beauty's official charity for 2010 and proceeds from the day will be donated to this worthwhile charity in aid of injured service personnel.

Karma Beauty offers luxury beauty and holistic treatments at affordable prices, making beauty available for all. Mel and the team will be hosting the Mad Hatter's tea party with cakes, cookies and treats served

with tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Wear your best tea party hat and receive a special prize awarded for the maddest hat at the party!

Balloon modelling, luxury raffle and introductory offers on all manicures and Indian head massages will be available, as well as homemade cakes that you can buy on the day to take home.

Serving tea on the day will be Simon, Mel's husband, who is running this year's Virgin London Marathon on April 24, also in aid of Help For Heroes.

As part of the support for Help For Heroes, Karma Beauty is donating four hours of free treatment for the wives of service personnel at RAF St Athan, as well as 10 per cent discount for all serving personnel.

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LETTERS  
EXTRA

**T**HE glib letter from Alun Cairns published in The GEM on April 1 cannot be reconciled with the leaflet sent by the Vale of Glamorgan

LETTERS  
EXTRA

**Conservatives to Dr David Ellis in Llantwit Major.**  
In the leaflet, Mr Cairns claims to have gone to Stuttgart as the result of anger among local Conservatives. In the leaflet, he is the local Conservative parliamentarian candidate.

In The GEM he suggests he went as the shadow Industry Minister in the Assembly with responsibility "in any part of Wales", but, nevertheless, he claims the visit was financed by himself and colleagues.

Now that it has been used by the Vale Conservatives as an electioneering ploy, the cost of the visit should be disclosed publicly. All Mr Cairns will declare on this subject is that he understands a similar trip by Labour

and Plaid may have cost the public purse more than £5,000. Dr Ellis is entitled to a full answer to his question: how much did Mr Cairns' visit to Stuttgart cost, and who exactly paid for it at the time?

**Roger Everest, Pontyclun**  
Footnote: In fairness, Mr Cairns clearly stated in his letter that "nothing was drawn from the public purse".

## Give us back our old analogue TV!

**S**INCE the switch-off of the TV analogue signal for ITV and BBC, and yet another retuning of my digital set top box, I have been having trouble with the ITV Wales signal.

It goes up and down like a proverbial yo yo, causing the pic-

ture to break up and freeze intermittently. Is the BBC blocking the signal to increase their viewing figures? All other channels seem to be fine. I have had to resort to tuning in to the ITV West analogue signal, which will be available until 2012.

Apparently, London will be the last location to go digital; is this because if they can't watch

Eastenders there will be riots on the streets? We poor souls in Wales are yet again used as guinea pigs until they can get the signal level right.

I will campaign against radio going digital, because this is maybe the only thing we can access.

The benefit is that we will save the cost of the TV licensing fee.  
**James Wild, Llantwit Major**

## Hunt for Gran

**I**WONDER if any of your readers can help me in my search for my grandmother?

Her name was Ethel Hilda Young and her last known address was 52 Mount Earl, Bridgend, in May/June 1945.

Any information would be appreciated.  
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## Paul Gentile's expert Troll kits advice

**D**ON'T miss Sunday April 18, when customers will be viewing the new limited edition Troll kits at Paul Gentile, The Capitol Centre, Cardiff.

The eye-catching sweet floral collection kits are available in two distinctive colourways, decorative pinks and vivid, vibrant blues.

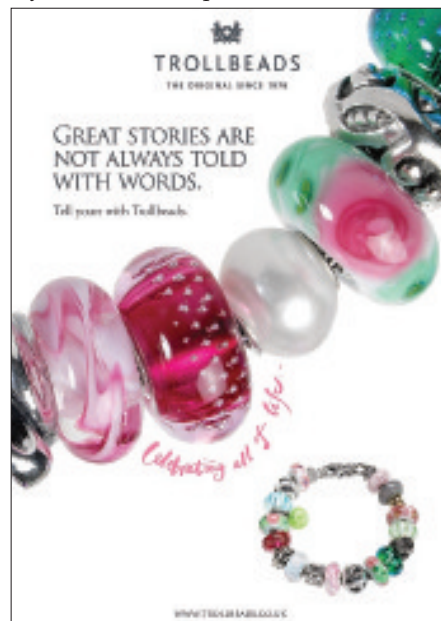
The beads are individually decorated and blend beautifully together to create an irresistible combination.

There are also the new dazzling delicate hanging Tassel Beads - beautiful beads inspired by the delightful colours and patterns of a garden blooming in spring!

A spokesman said: "Join us for light refreshments, a free raffle and expert advice on your trolls."

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# SPRING is here

EASTER weekend was a little disappointing. Most of us hoped the weather would improve enough to encourage us out of hibernation. The temperature is now rising - so the time is right to transform our garden areas.

If your mower has been stored away through the winter, perhaps it needs the blades sharpened or maintaining? Is your fence in need of attention after winter storms? Check out what needs repairing or renewing around your garden.

Our spring feature includes companies with the products and services to help bring the life back into your surroundings.

## Garden walls, patios and paving



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Future Window Solutions undertakes the whole build process, from foundations, brickwork, electrics, plastering and final installation, leaving you to sit back and relax in the knowledge that your conservatory is in the best possible hands.

A spokesman added: "We offer a wide range of styles for you to choose from, including Victorian, Edwardian, gable ended, P-shaped, lean-to, double hipped and new generation Orangeries."



**Future Window Solutions**

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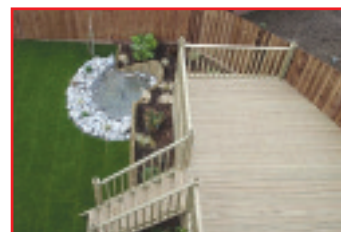
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### NIP

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are a local company serving the Vale of Glamorgan. With both experienced and qualified tradesmen, we provide a range of services from garden design to complete makeovers.

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With more than 10 years trading we have built up thousands of satisfied customers willing to act as references to the quality and efficiency of our work.

We achieve this by only using top quality materials and paying attention to every last detail. By doing this it enables us to guarantee all our work.

We pride ourself on finishing our work to a very high standard, which is reflected by the excellent references and portfolio we have to offer.



# SPRING is here

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Our range of pots and containers is unique, complementing our plants perfectly. Our plants are available to hire out at a daily rate for weddings, corporate events and private functions.

We also offer garden visits to advise on specific plants suitable for your location and fulfil your personal requirements.

Our website is updated regularly, listing our latest seasonal stock and offers.

We look forward to seeing you at Dyffryn soon.

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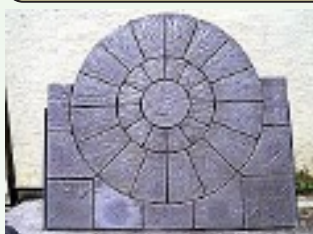
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Drive past the village post office, taking the next right, signposted Llanharan.

We are about one and three-quarter miles along this road on the right-hand side.

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The company team is local to the Vale and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Staff are all friendly, reliable and helpful.

Richard would like to thank all existing customers for their past loyalty and looks forward to their continued custom.

He also welcomes new customers – so come and look around!

There are great prices and everybody is welcome.

## HOW TO FIND US ...

Entering the Vale Business Park, Llandow, you follow the main road into the site and keep straight ahead, practically to the end to where road narrowing pillars are situated. Turn right and then take the first left; the entrance is at the end of this street.

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# Homes & Gardens

## Revealing the 10 top tips so you can relax in the perfect conservatory

**R**ELAX in a conservatory on a summer's day, and it soon becomes apparent how it can transform the way in which you use your home.

Hugely versatile and appealing, a conservatory maximises living space, whether it's used as a peaceful year-round sanctuary for some much-needed 'me' time, as an informal dining space, or even as a playroom.

Gareth Short, conservatories and glazing business manager at the Leekes department store, explained: "Adding a conservatory to your home can bring a whole new dimension to how you live.

"You can now choose from an even more extensive range of styles and finishes than ever before, and our experts will tailor whatever design you want to suit

your requirements."

With a little expert advice on how to go about making an investment that can add as much as five per cent to the value of your property, you'll soon be well on the way to creating the additional living space you've always wanted, just by sticking to a few 'rules'.

### STEP 1 - CHOICE

There's so much choice when it comes to choosing the perfect conservatory that you'd be forgiven for not knowing where to start.

While the classic white uPVC conservatory remains massively popular due to its low cost, advances in building technology in recent years has also increased the choices available.

Hardwood conservatories are a great alternative to uPVC, with tiled roof conservatories becoming more sought after as they blend seamlessly with your home.

Demand for tradition-

al-style orangeries, characterised by their vaulted roofs, is also growing, adding an air of sophistication to any living space.

### STEP 2 - DESIGN AND PLANNING

Most specialist conservatory companies offer a comprehensive service which includes free design and planning.

An experienced conservatory designer will have extensive knowledge of the design and planning process from the initial technical service through to the creation of a computer-aided design which will enable you to visualise the proposed layout and overall look of your new conservatory before you make a commitment.

### STEP 3 - PLANNING PERMISSION

Determining whether or not you need planning permission is essential and this is an area that a well-established, reputable company will be

happy to take care of.

### STEP 4 - INSTALLATION

The free design and planning service that most reputable retailers offer usually extends to installation too. Ensure your new conservatory is installed by approved qualified craftsmen who are able to take care of everything from the building of the base through to the fitting of the glass.

Craftsmen who are qualified to a high standard will carry out the job safely and with the minimum of disruption.

Look out for industry accredited companies who are members of BBA and FENSA. Make sure you opt for a design that is timeless enough

to look great for many years to come.

### STEP 6 - AFFORDABILITY

Investing in a new conservatory can be one of the most costly purchases you will ever make as a homeowner, so having the option to spread the cost is always appealing. Look out for flexible payment options, including low affordable monthly payments, home improvement loans and interest free credit options which can be arranged to suit you.

### STEP 7 - INNOVATION

Innovations are always taking place in the conservatory and glazing industry.

Developments in technology now mean that much of the glass used in conservatories is self-cleaning, with glass that can help to reduce heat loss by up to 90 per cent also used in many constructions.

### STEP 8 - FINISHING TOUCHES

As with most things in life, it's the finishing touches that make all the difference and a full interior design service is the perfect way to complete the look of your

conservatory.

An interior designer can advise on the best way to furnish your new living space - will you opt for cane furniture or fabric, hard wearing floor tiles or wooden flooring, spot lights or an elaborate chandelier?

Blinds are also all important in a conservatory, especially when summer arrives.

### STEP 9 - 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

Ask a sales consultant about a guarantee - most specialist conservatory companies are so confident in their products that they'll want you to

have peace of mind for many years to come, so a guarantee will come as standard.

### STEP 10 - AFTER SALES SERVICE

Once the installation is complete, your level of customer service should continue to be as supportive as at the initial stages of design and planning.

A dedicated after sales support team should be on hand to offer assistance in dealing with any queries you may have once your conservatory has been installed.

## Slade Farm gardens put on charity show



Peter and Rosamund Davies with Alun Cairns AM.

HUNDREDS of people flocked to see the gardens at Slade Farm in Southerndown on Easter Sunday, under the National Open Garden scheme.

Supported by regional

AM, Alun Cairns, Peter and Rosamund Davies opened their garden to the public under the scheme and raised hundreds of pounds for charity in the process.

Slade Farm is believed to be the first in Glamorgan to open this year, and the woodland garden boasted masses

of early spring flowers, mature specimen trees, living willow arbours, rose and clematis pergola, terraced lawns, orchard and herbaceous borders.

Mr Cairns said: "In spite of the recent wet weather, the gardens were in superb condition."

"Peter and Rosamund had also organised an Easter egg hunt for the

children, which went down exceptionally well. "They really deserve to be congratulated on their hard work."

"We also need to recognise the work of the Brownies, who helped with the teas and cakes."

"It was a delightful event, showing a fantastic garden and raising money for charity in the process."

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# Homes & Gardens

## GREEN WASTE COLLECTIONS RESUME AROUND THE VALE

**W**ITH the arrival of warmer weather, residents in the Vale are to receive their regular kerbside fortnightly garden waste collections.

Garden waste bags are collected on the same week as cardboard and plastic recycling, and content should include grass, shrub cuttings, leaves, plants, flowers and most weeds.

Figures from last year (April 2008 – March 2009) show that more than 4,100 tonnes of garden waste were collected, highlighting the exceptional effort put in by Vale residents.

Early figures from April 2009 to the end of March 2010 indicate that residents have exceeded last year's tonnage.

Coun Geoff Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services, was keen to praise how well residents have done.

He said: "Our Vale garden waste is sent to Penllyn Farm in Cowbridge where it is composted, turned into a soil enhancer and reused back on their farm land."



"I would like to say to our residents and all those involved, well done and keep up the good work, for this year too."

Garden waste must be placed out by 7am in either green reusable fabric bags, costing £1, or

biodegradable bags (three for £1).

Each bag is sold at both the council's Civic and Dock offices in Barry, the Alps office in Wenvoe, as well as from Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Penarth

libraries.

The recycling officer, Michelle Fitzpatrick said: "As the weather improves, we urge residents to remember that the main purpose of any of their recycling efforts is to reduce the burden

• Front row: from Cowbridge Compost – Damien Burnell, senior tractor driver, Coun Geoff Cox, John Homfray, estate partner, Mike Hallet, farm manager and Andrew Shackell, cattle manager.

we place on landfill. We are delighted that more and more residents get involved every year but we would still urge people to consider whether they could do more."

For more information on recycling, telephone 01446 700111, email [visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or visit the council's website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle).

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## Creative Window & Build Solutions has expanded its product portfolio

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# Cold bites as Porthcawl RNLI crew rescue 'men overboard'

**PORHCRAWL** RNLI lifeboat crew were called out on Easter Sunday to a jet ski, after its riders were thrown into the icy water in Newton Bay.

Porthcawl RNLI spokesman Ian Stroud said:

"The crew were just about to launch on a routine training exercise when the call came in, so the lifeboat was on the scene quickly.

"The crew arrived on to find that the Jet Ski's riders had been thrown into the freezing water and the craft was still in motion.

"The lifeboat picked up one of the casualties and brought him safely ashore, while the other swam to waiting Coastguards, who then

transferred them both to a paramedic team."

With the casualties safe, the lifeboat then returned to locate the jet ski.

The helmsman, Alex Denny, manoeuvred the lifeboat alongside the moving craft while Joseph Missen jumped onboard, bringing it safely ashore.

Joseph Missen said: "The crew of the jet ski were very lucky, as the moving craft could have easily run one of them over while it was circling."

The lifeboat then returned to station to be re-fuelled when another call came through for the same area.

Once again, the lifeboat quickly launched, this time going to the aid of a canoeist who had fallen out of his canoe.

Finding it difficult to get back ashore, he had abandoned his craft and tried to swim for the shore.

The lifeboat picked him up and transferred him to the local Coastguard team.

Ian Stroud said: "The canoeist and the casualties from the previous call were all treated by the paramedics in the waiting ambulance and then taken to hospital.

"At this time of year, the sea is at its coldest and people need to make sure that they are dressed appropriately for these conditions.

"Also, their crafts have not been in use during the winter months and need to be serviced and prepared correctly before being used for the new season."

## Maesteg Scouts are in need of financial help

**MAESTEG Scouts and cubs have had to move out of their hall in the Llynfi Valley because of safety problems with the building.**

The Third Maesteg Scout Group, which is based in the old Peniel Chapel in Bethania Street, has been running for 50 years and has gone from strength-to-strength in the past two years under new leadership.

The group caters for children aged from eight to 14, with plans to open a Beaver colony for younger ones aged six to eight.

However, problems at their building mean that £45,000 is needed to make it fit for purpose.

They are seeking grants but there is an urgent short-term problem, which is the removal of asbestos ceiling tiles in the main hall at a cost of £2,773.

At the moment, the

group does not have this money, although fund raising is underway. Until the tiles have been removed, no further work can be carried out at the hall.

Maesteg Town Council heard that no council donations to the Scouts had been made for many years, and it was agreed to donate £500.

Coun Phil Jenkins said he had spoken to many of the people running this group.

He said that they have to pay to have the asbestos disposed of commercially, and he said that the council should contribute.

"This is a worthy organisation to support," he added.

## Deaf aids in chamber

**A HEARING loop system for deaf people is to be installed in the council chamber at the Maesteg council offices.**

The request was made by Coun Bernard Bolger, who said he had a serious hearing problem himself.

He said that deafness affects 40 per cent of people over the age of 50 and 70 per cent of those over 70.

Councillors heard that it was now a requirement

under the Disabled Act to install this system.

"There are nine million people in Britain who wear hearing aids," he said. "I would like to move that we install a hearing loop system and that we obtain technical information from the Royal National Institute for the Deaf."

He said that it would cost upwards of £2,000 to install the system.

Members agreed in principle and referred it to the finance committee.

## Council sets aside £35,000 for pool work

**MAESTEG Town Council has agreed a capital programme of £190,700 for the new financial year just started.**

The largest single item in the programme is a donation of £35,000 towards the cost of refurbishing the swimming pool - with further similar sums in the next two financial years.

Other items in the list include £25,500 for Maesteg Town Hall; £31,000 for the Christmas street lighting; £25,100 for the provision of public toilets; £20,000 on highway safety projects.

This gives the council a budget in total of £285,300. They have raised £269,33 of this from the precept, which is £50 at band D, with the rest coming from rent and other income.

£16,000 for ward improvements and £13,000 towards leisure facilities.

There are also smaller sums allocated - £4,400 for summer holiday playschemes; £4,000 for rights of way; £5,000 for bus shelters, seats and handrails; £6,000 for hanging baskets in the town centre and £5,000 for environmental projects with £800 on bulb painting.

The rest of the council's budget - a further £94,600 - will go on day to day running costs including wages to staff, office expenses and £25,000 for the cost of running the council offices.

They have raised £269,33 of this from the precept, which is £50 at band D, with the rest coming from rent and other income.

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## CLASH OF THE TITANS? - IT'S MORE TRASH OF THE TITANS!

**LOUIS LETERRIER has done an excellent job of building up his directorial profile in recent years.**

After coming under the tutelage of Luc Besson, Leterrier made his bow with *Unleashed*, swiftly followed by the daffily enjoyable *Transporter 2*.

Having shown he knew his way around the action genre, Leterrier was handed *The Incredible Hulk*, and while his effort wasn't an all-encompassing hit, he showed enough ability to be tasked with bringing *Clash of the Titans* back to the big screen.

The remake of the 1981 original, noted for Ray Harryhausen's stop-motion effects work, sees Perseus (Sam Worthington), a half-man, half-god, lose his family when Hades (Ralph Fiennes) kills them during a battle between men and gods.

When the city of Argos is put under threat by Hades, sent by Zeus (Liam Neeson) to show man the power of the gods, Perseus decides to stop him, and with a small group (including Mads Mikkelsen, Gemma Arterton and Nicholas Hoult) sets out to stop Hades before he can unleash the Kraken...

This review starts with a warning: there are two versions of *Clash...* showing at your local cinema, a 2-D version and a 3-D version.

Under no circumstances should you watch the latter, given the complete lack of anything remotely three-dimensional taking

place. It seems to be merely a marketing gambit by the studio, as opposed to a genuine attempt to make a film with the benefits of new technology, and should be avoided, lest you want to watch a slightly fuzzy film with the occasionally weak moment of '3-D'.

Rant over, and now onto the real meat of the review - and sadly it's not good news. For much like the 3-D, *Clash of the Titans* is a film similarly lacking in any real positives, and feels more like a cash-in of the original's goodwill than an attempt to make a film that bears any cinematic relevance today. Put bluntly, this *Clash* is absolute trash, and not overly enjoyable trash at that.

It is churlish to compare and contrast with the original film, which, Harryhausen's stop-motion aside, is an average piece of work with the odd moment of style, but it seems *Clash...* 2010 has taken the overblown nature of the story and assembled a film that is pointless, episodic and far too reliant on action sequences that are thrown in in lieu of creating a storyline.

Coming in at a running time of 106 minutes, the film makes an honourable attempt to maintain the pace and excitement by pretty much leaping from one action sequence to the next.

All well and good if it intended to be a throw-away action film, but given the nature of the story trying to be told, it merely smacks of the scriptwriters failing to offer any substance to the story. Given the situa-

tion Perseus finds himself in, learning he is half-man, half-god, do we get to see any real emoting about what he has to do?

Of course we don't, instead he just mopes around stony-faced, telling everyone that he is all man and will do what he has to do without the assistance of the gods (though ironically having to use the help of the gods to overcome villainy!)

It seems any concession to make the story more developed and nuanced has been thrown out by the screenwriters, who number three and seem to lack any idea of writing anything other than action sequence after action sequence.

It's little surprise that with a script like that, the performances fail to enliven proceedings. Sam Worthington, who after *Terminator: Salvation* and *Avatar* is quickly turning into the go-to guy for characters thrown into the deep end, fails to elicit anything resembling the intensity of the aforementioned performances.

Instead, his Perseus is lacking in charisma, and is little more than a footnote as a character - as we learn little about him throughout the course of the film.

While the likes of Mads Mikkelsen and Liam Cunningham do their best to make their swarthy soldiers a little more memorable than most of the other characters, Gemma Arterton finds herself wasted as Io, a character seemingly only created to pass on handy hints and tips as the group make their way from scene to

scene. The actress is more than capable of better, though is given little time to do anything, something that similarly applies to the casting of Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes.

While the former looks like the cousin of Ron Burgundy with his outlandish facial hair, it seems he can coast on gravitas alone, offering little with his turn.

Meanwhile, Fiennes takes time out of chewing the scenery on the *Harry Potter* franchise to have a nibble on the *Clash...*, set in a largely forgettable role low on villainy but high on melodrama.

That they can cast Danny Huston as Poseidon, only to restrict him to one line, shows that the filmmakers were more concerned with appearances than that they were hiring the right talent; no doubt the latter three actors will be chortling happily to themselves, having no doubt banked a tidy pay packet for (in Huston's case especially) nothing.

Louis Leterrier's love of the original was a big factor in him signing up for this remake, but he shows little flair or skill that marks him out as director of any real talent.

Certainly he shows he can handle the epic scale of the film, but the reference points here are the likes of *Lord of the Rings* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the film lacking a visual identity of its own.

While he utilises the CGI effects well, with some of the beasts they encounter being well rendered, there is no real build to the various sequences, and Medusa, the Kraken et al, while

## SCREEN TALK



**by GARETH JAMIESON**

looking good, don't quite carry the menace you would hope for, with the final sequence in particular feeling rushed and far too simplistic.

While there are some moments that are cleverly executed, the overall feel of *Clash of the Titans* is of a gigantic letdown.

The performances are weak, the story rushed, and the film looks like a retread of other fantasy films without establishing its own personality.

It all adds up to a poor experience, a film that fails to excite and, actually, bores a little - and the less said about the 3-D experience the better!

**VERDICT** - A dull and weak remake of an average film, *Clash of the Titans* does no-one involved any good, and makes for a less than worthwhile viewing experience.

The performances are lifeless and tread water while the story is rushed and lacking in depth.

A bore in both 2-D and 3-D, *Clash of the Titans* is a film best left alone.

Poor.

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Niki 01446 740394

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Lina 01656 890708

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Lorraine 01446 407002

**Penarth - 6.30pm**  
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church  
Elfed Road  
Niki 01446 740394

**Rhoose - 6.30pm**  
Celtic Way Community Centre  
Celtic Way  
Helen 01446 750738

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Joanne 01446 404897

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Park Road,  
Porth-y-Castell  
Annmarie 01446 736534

**Barry - 6.00pm**  
Cadroxton Methodist Church  
Church Road  
Joanne 01446 404897

**Cowbridge - 6.00pm**  
The Duke of Wellington, High Street  
Lina 01656 890708

**Penarth 5.00 & 7.00pm**  
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Square Linda 01446 761150

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# Out and About with The GEM

## May Ball at The Bear

**COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School PTA has announced that the May Ball will take place on May 7 at 7.30pm.**

The popular annual black tie event will be held in The Bear Hotel. Tickets are £40 and include a sumptuous three-course dinner with dancing late into the night to the strains of 'The Love Handles'.

Join the bidding in our 'Money Can't Buy Auction' and take part in the party games - it all combines to make it a thoroughly unforgettable evening.

Tables are in twelves so bring your friends along, or alternatively, meet new friends by joining a 'pot luck' table.

To avoid disappointment book your tickets early by calling Caroline on 01446 792320.

CL

## Ty Hafan winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 612.**

● £2000: 817480.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £500, was not claimed this week.

● £10: 341117;  
201444; 498952; 356327;  
338210; 124360; 673780;  
161566; 206353; 190866;  
174930; 233115; 667330;  
199755; 556366; 574222;  
846612; 776124; 628332;  
221935.

● £5: 477862;  
648092; 472996; 732892;  
579799; 666246; 149931;  
753453; 662323; 448497;

577786; 898734; 653567;  
641219; 703208; 396977;  
399060; 293592; 473195;  
259829; 358773; 350212;  
896846; 516544; 871353;  
721329; 527848; 246237;  
775354; 658386; 384215;  
402142; 457772; 137322;  
813260; 835689; 798941;  
141622; 232587; 786428;  
172190; 773816; 877782;  
327416; 164174; 375002;  
102382; 314263; 577520;  
694547; 439060; 275097;  
466280; 509033; 359720;  
391509; 839898; 285368;  
882793; 893366.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.  
For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## Art over time at Barry station



Artist Claire Davies begins painting her installation, watched by Barry Station café customer, Tony Cutlan.

**THE Travellers Gallery in Barry Station, Broad Street, is being 'Reclaimed by Nature' in 'An Art Installation Over Time' painted directly onto the walls of the gallery by artist Claire Davies.**

is the first installation we have had in the Travellers Gallery", said Eve Hart, a member of the planning group which organises the exhibition programme.

"Claire Davies has shown in the gallery before, but this is her first one-person exhibition here. We are sure it will be very popular."

The installation is open on Mondays to Friday mornings, until May 31.

Travellers and commuters can watch the process unfold week by week.

"This exciting project

## PACT meetings

**BUTTRILLS PACT**, Philip John Community House, Barry Library, April 8, at 6.30pm.

**YSTRADOWEN Coffee and Chat**, White Lion Public House on April 6, at 11.30am.

**ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT**, St Brides Church Hall on April 7, at 6pm.

**WENVOE Coffee and Chat**, Beechtree Inn on April 8, at 11.30am.

**DINAS POWYS PACT**, Bethesda Hall on April 12, at 7pm.

**ST AUGUSTINES PACT**, Windsor Public House on April 13, at 7pm.

**CORNERSWELL PACT**, Cogan Leisure Centre on April 13, at 7pm.

**PLYMOUTH PACT**, Paget Rooms on April 14, at 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team or you can log onto [www.our-bobby.com](http://www.our-bobby.com)

## Ty Hafan's plea to 'dress up or down for a pound'

**TY HAFAN, the family hospice for young lives, is asking local schools, organisations and groups to take part in their 'Dress Up or Down for a Pound' campaign on April 30.**

The life-limited children and young people who visit Ty Hafan in Sully, love to dress up and have fun while making the most of every precious moment they have left with their families. People can show their support for them and join in the fun by dressing up or down and

paying a pound so these life-limited children, young people and their families continue to get the comfort, care and support they so desperately need.

Hayley Mason, a member of the busy family support team at Ty Hafan, remembers the many dressing up sessions which have taken place at the hospice.

"In the past ten years I have been a cowgirl, a fairy, a shepherd, a sheep, a medieval queen, an army cadet, a snowman, a pirate, a Christmas present, a

Christmas tree and a cracker! There is nothing we wouldn't do to raise a smile."

However you decide to dress on April 30, by donating just £1 to Ty Hafan you can help to keep on raising those smiles and making the world of difference to the lives of those who use Ty Hafan's services.

For more information on how you can take part in "Dress Up or Down for a Pound" visit [www.dressupordownforapound.co.uk](http://www.dressupordownforapound.co.uk) or contact Gaynor on 029 2067 2060.

## Valeways walk

**JOIN the head gardener of Dyffryn Gardens on Friday, May 14 for a special guided tour of the grounds as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival.**

Learn more about the seasonal plants as well as the newly restored walled garden.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about the principles of Thomas Mawson's design, the acclaimed landscape architect commissioned by the Cory Family in early 19th Century.

Booking is essential. While this guided walk is free, discounted admission charges apply.

Visit [www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk](http://www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk) for the full programme and online booking facility.

Phone bookings and enquiries can also be made by calling Valeways on 01446 749000.

## NATIONAL HUNT HORSE RACING

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[www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk](http://www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk)  
Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

## South Wales Model & Craft SHOW



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# 'Town centres have waited too long' - claim

PLAID Cymru parliamentary candidate for Bridgend, Nick Thomas, invited his party's honorary president, Dafydd Wigley, to view the area of Porthcawl marked for redevelopment.

"Plaid's campaign 'Town Centre ♥ our community' is calling for action to reverse the trend over recent years that has seen local shops, banks, pubs and newsagents in town centres close down while large scale retailers have moved to out-of-town developments," Nick Thomas said.

"All levels of government must ensure sustainable and healthy policies are in place and must work in partnership to ensure the future for our town centres.

"Successive London governments, in failing to stand up to big business, have failed to protect our local town centre



Nick Thomas and Dafydd Wigley.

economies." He went on: "Our town centres in Porthcawl and Bridgend have waited too long for regeneration and, as an essential part of our community deserve to be protected as such.

"For too long the power has lain in the hands of larger retailers, and of course many of these have now moved to out-of-town developments.

"The resulting decline of footfall in town centres has left a vacuum

and has had a domino effect in the closure of many local businesses."

Dafydd Wigley added: "Town centres have an invaluable role to play. Not only are they important in terms of attracting visitors, they are also playing a vital social role.

"Many of the most vulnerable people in our communities are unable to access the large out of town developments and rely heavily on smaller, local shops."

## Easter egg hunt around Wildmill is great fun!



Jessica Jones, Nayanna Rogers and winner Rhys Littlejohn. ON Saturday, April 3, Wildmill Area Tenants & Residents Association (WATRA) held its Easter event, starting with an egg hunt around the estate with more than 60 children and young people taking part, despite the poor weather.

There was an Easter bonnet competition where the winners were: 1st - Rhys Littlejohn, aged five; 2nd - Nayanna Rogers, aged two; 3rd - Jessica Jones, aged nine.

Scotty's Circus provided entertainment after the egg hunt, with stilt walking, plate spinning, juggling and magic tricks.

Wildmill Youthworks ran an arts and crafts workshop making Easter

cards and painting polystyrene eggs.

Hot dogs, burgers, popcorn, candy floss and refreshments were provided by WATRA. Gaynor Hayes, Chair of WATRA would like to thank all the community for attending.

Youthworks and Communities First. Special thanks to Lewis Gibson and Callum Taylor-Moore for running the candy floss stall.

TE

**The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)**

**CAN YOU GIVE HOLBY A HOME? THIS WEEK: HOLBY is a five-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier.**

A centre spokeswoman reports: "He is a fab boy, with a lovely nature. He is friendly with people, but he doesn't get on with other dogs.

"He needs a home with someone who has owned Staffs before. He needs to be the only dog in the home. He will need an active owner who can provide him with plenty of exercise."



Holby.

## Honours even as Ath youngsters host Bryncoch

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC BRYNCOCH

WITH this being the Ath's under-7s' last home game before their tournament, they had a visit from Bryncoch who only turned up with an under-8s side, and was it an excellent game.

The Ath were first on the scoreboard with some fine running from Jordan Gittins. With the rain lashing down, the Ath were caught cold and let Bryncoch in for three easy tries.

Just before the half-time whistle, Jordan Gittins broke free to score in the corner. At half-time, it was 3-2.

After the break, the Ath came out full of running and were just prevented from scoring by an excellent Bryncoch defence.

Bryncoch were first to score after a mistake from the Ath.

The young Ath side were playing some superb rugby, passing the ball about and were finally rewarded with a fine try down the blind side from Olivia Thompson.

Bryncoch came straight back and scored a fine try of their own.

The Ath hit back with some excellent passing from Fynn Mordecai, Ieuan Pippin, and a well-timed switch by Thomas Lewis slipped the ball to Euan Rees, who outpaced the Bryncoch defence for a brilliant try. The Ath then scored a great try by Lloyd Anthony.

But Bryncoch took a two-try lead with minutes to go.

In the dying seconds, the Ath got the ball wide to Ieuan Pippin who got a well-deserved try.

Final score: Bridgend

Ath 6 - Bryncoch 7. Man of the match went to Euan Rees for his all-round game play. RH

On Easter Sunday, Bryncoch came to Newbridge Fields.

The Ath under-8s started off well with some great defence to keep Bryncoch from scoring early on.

It was the Ath who opened the scoring, with Iwan Hill squeezing over to score the first of the day.

Bryncoch came straight back and scored a well-worked try, but that proved to be their only try of the half.

The Ath piled on the pressure and three more tries came in the first half, with Isaac Watkins, Oliver Raynor and Bobby Bromley all getting on the score sheet.

The second half saw another good display by the Ath. Morgan Bennett opened the scoring with a strong run before Oliver Raynor scored a good interception try from a loose pass by Bryncoch.

The Ath defence was solid, but a good passing move by Bryncoch saw them break through the Ath defence for the second time to score another try.

The Ath boys worked hard and played some superb rugby. Two more tries followed in the last few minutes, with Jack Pitts racing over to score, followed by Oliver Raynor, whose good support play saw him take the ball at speed and score a really good try.

Final score: Ath under-

8s 8 - Bryncoch 2.

Player of the match went to Oliver Raynor for a good solid display. AB

## Novello's music, table tennis and a seaman talks!

The speaker at Coity WI's February meeting was Mr Howard Mortimer, who presented a delightful talk on Ivor Novello, illustrated with music and songs from the Novello repertoire.

Show schedules for the Glamorgan Show 2010 were distributed, and president Mary Poland announced the formation of a new luncheon club which will meet on the second Wednesday of the month.

She also congratulated the darts team on their performance at the tournament held at Llanharry, where they won three out of their five games.

We were happy to welcome a visitor from another WI, Joan Woodcock of Guilsfield, near Welshpool (formerly Joan Griffiths of Pencoed) who has been a WI member for more than 40 years, serving in the capacity of both president and secretary.

In March, two members attended the International Women's Day at Nolton Church,

### COITY WI

where they debated the role of women in public and political life.

The table tennis taster day held at Coity Community Centre was so successful that it is hoped another session can be arranged. Thanks were extended to Mary Poland who co-ordinated the event with the U3A.

The link meeting took the form of a pamper evening, held at Coychurch, where the colour co-ordination session was particularly popular.

A visit to Denman College, together with friends from Pencoed WI, made a very rewarding day out. Denman is a residential college near Oxford where members of the WI can take short courses in a wide variety of subjects.

## Tabernacl choir

THE Tabernacl Music Society choir practice takes place at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend, on Tuesdays 7-8.45pm.

Mixed voice; repertoire of classical and lighter music, social events. New members are welcome. Please telephone the secretary (01656 654899).

## Choir gets smarter with Co-op uniform donation

A donation of £1,800 from the Co-operative is helping a new choir to smarten up their image.

Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch was set up in August 2009 and has 20 members who perform at festivals and social events.

"As a relatively new group, the choir wants to appear more professional and will use the money to buy uniforms", said secretary Richard Howells.

"The choir is made up of men from all walks of life and we always welcome new members. A new uniform would give us a sense of identity, not to

mention a smart and elegant appearance, which is preferable when singing in festivals. We would like to say a big thanks to The Co-operative for supporting us."

The donation came from The Co-operative's Community Fund, part of a share of profits scheme, which offers customer-members cash back on their trade with the group's businesses.

Members can choose to keep the cash or donate all or part of their share to local good causes. Last year, The Co-operative paid out £41 million to members and £1 million to local community groups.

## Club's invite to local sporting young people

TO celebrate the end of a second successful year and the beginning of a third, Porthcawl Athletic Club is inviting local children to take advantage of the excellent facilities at Locks Lane, free of charge in the summer.

Children between the ages of five and eight years will be able to take part in a number of activities such as 5-a-side soccer, volleyball, netball, football, tennis and 'football cricket' for up to two hours per day.

All children will be looked after by the club's own supervisors, all of whom have been CRB checked and have undergone or are undergoing

leadership award training to SWFA standards.

The emphasis here for children is fun and the activity. All children should arrive with sports attire and training shoes.

There will be an opportunity to play on the new 'all weather' playing surface SCANSIS pitch which has recently been opened. Toilet facilities and soft drinks are provided at the cricket pavilion.

All interested parties are asked to contact Kerry Marlow on 07900 494386 or Pat Farrow on 07825 092376, or visit the club website at [www.porthcawlathletic.co.uk](http://www.porthcawlathletic.co.uk)

Timetables will be posted once organisers have an idea of numbers involved.

## Tondu under-10s struggle against near neighbours

TONDU under-10s played Bryncethin first with Treorchy kindly providing the referee.

The Tondu youngsters played their socks off during this game, with some excellent phases of play. Callum Booton distinguished himself in dispatches.

However, despite their efforts, Bryncethin got the first try and converted. Tondu came back to draw level through a try by Garryn Thomas and a conversion by Ben Merchant and the half finished level.

The second half saw Tondu in the ascendancy and Garryn Thomas got his second try of the game, but the extras were not forthcoming.

Bryncethin came back and got their second try and nosed ahead with a conversion.

Tondu did cross again as Ben Merchant went down the touch line and dived for the corner. However, this sterling effort was disallowed as the flag was knocked over. Before or after the ball was grounded, only a TV match official could have told!

Bryncethin had the last say with an unconverted try before the end of the game.

Second half: Tondu 12 Bryncethin 19.

Tondu played their other visitors, Treorchy, next and found themselves playing against a much more aggressive, faster and physical team, not made any easier having Shannon Price sidelined with a twisted ankle late in the first match.

The first half saw Treorchy score four unanswered tries, all with successful conversions.

The second half pro-

The tour of the facilities took in the Georgian house with its fine reception area and dining hall, the purpose-built teaching centre (used recently on BBC's Masterchef) and the residential accommodation where we were able to see the room which was furnished by the Glamorgan Federation.

The March meeting was chaired by vice-president Ann Mutton. The speaker was Mr A Evans who entertained with anecdotes of his experience as a young seaman during WW11.

The speaker for the next meeting, which is on April 28, will be Mrs Wendy Collie, who is an underwear specialist.

New members and visitors will be welcome; meet at Coity Church Hall at 7.30pm.

JK



## Two weekend rugby victories for the Pencoed under-12s

**PENCOED under-12s enjoyed a successful weekend of rugby, welcoming touring side Kettering RFC on Saturday, and making the short trip to Bridgend Sports on Sunday.**

On Saturday they inflicted the first defeat

on tour for Kettering, running out 42-0 winners, but the scoreline didn't reflect the game as the visitors turned out to be a tough nut to crack.

Tries from Luke Bevan and Morgan Burgess, one converted by Bevan, gave the hosts a slender 12-0 lead at the break but the second half saw Pencoed put in a very good all-round per-

formance with five unanswered tries.

Morgan Burgess grabbed his first hat-trick in Pencoed colours with the other scores coming from Lewis Butler (2) and Chris Carr.

Jacob Lloyd converted two to give the hosts a hard-fought victory.

Morgan Burgess picked up the man of the match award, as there seemed to be two of him, one in the back row and one on the wing!

Sunday's game against the Sports was a tough game as expected. Pencoed crossed for the first try through James Thomas but the Sports replied with an interception score to take an early 5-7 lead.

With the wind and rain driving into them, Pencoed ran in a well-deserved try from Aaron Leyshon to take a 7-10 lead into half-time.

The Pencoed forwards went on to dominate the second half and, with the aid of the wind now at their backs, the visitors again displayed another great team effort with three unanswered tries from Lewis Butler, Dan Watkins and Jacob Lloyd giving a score of 7-25.

James Thomas and Kieran Parrish both shared the man of the match award as the coaches couldn't choose between them! **SB**

**A BRIGHT and breezy Sunday morning brought an enthusiastic Cwmavon team to Pandy Park to play Tondy under-9s.**

Daniel Mayne led the side with a committed display of mauling and rucking from the outset. Tondy were into their stride immediately, and quick turnover ball was key to Morgan Strong opening the scoring after a fine charge for the line.

Quick rucking was again the telling factor that provided space for Callum Vause and then Luke Dingle to score in quick succession. Cwmavon were by no means deterred by the Tondy scores and fought back for a deserved try.

Tondy started the second period with their best spell of the game, as good handling and awareness of space provided Nathan Harris with the opportunity to run in a trademark long-distance try.

Cwmavon responded with some good running of their own for another try, but the rest of the half was Tondy's, with Luke Dingle showing speed and determination, together with excellent support

play to complete his hat-trick.

Dingle's excellent tackling was mirrored by Morgan Strong, who scored another before Nathan Harris crossed after another good run.

A committed Morgan Strong opened the third quarter for Tondy, but the scoreline didn't reflect the tenacity of Cwmavon, who recycled well to put a number of runners into open space. Weak tackling from Tondy allowed the visitors to teach a lesson to the home side, as they ran in four good tries in succession.

Tondy rallied well however, and through better tackling and support play, created tries for both Morgan Strong and Nathan Harris to complete their respective hat-tricks.

So, it was a hat-trick of hat-tricks for Tondy, but two good team performances laid the foundations for a spirited display of running rugby.

**Final score: Tondy 11 Cwmavon 6.**

**Tondy team:** Lewis Oates, Callum Vause, Luke Brett, Daniel Mayne, Jacob Thomas, Luke Dingle, Cameron Keegans, Morgan Strong, Ceiran Edwards, Edward Dunlop, Nathan Harris. **JM**

## Bridgend Athletic youngsters stage a big comeback

**LAST Sunday was the Ath's last fixture for this season but there are three tournaments for the Ath youngsters to look forward too.**

**YELLOWS**  
The latest fixture was at home against Bryncoch RFC, and first up were the Ath Yellows. Both sides started off really well, passing the ball through hand and tackling well.

It was Bryncoch who took the advantage of this good play by taking a 2-0 lead at half-time.

The Ath Yellows were playing really good rugby and were defending to a much improved standard, but they could not break Bryncoch's line. They came close on a number of occasions.

Bryncoch had the upper hand and scored a further four tries. In the later stages of the second half, Megan Webb had to leave the field and in her place, Sam Veasey took to the field.

With the final whistle looming, it was the Ath who were to have the last say, with a well worked try - Sam raced into the corner.

The final score did not reflect the game at all, both sides played really well, and either side could have won but the try count and victory went to Bryncoch.

**Final score:** Ath 1 Bryncoch 6.

**Squad:** Louis King, Brandyn Fooks, Morgan Evans, James Hermelle, Taine Waite, Daffydd Beach, Chris Hart, Cai Robinson, Megan, Webb and William Goodall. **Player of the match**

went to Cai Robinson for his determination and much improved defensive work.

**GREENS**

In the second game, the Ath Greens took on Bryncoch's elite. The Ath Greens were ready and itching to go, as were Bryncoch after their win in the first game.

Thomas Anthony, with a fine try, put some doubts in the minds of the Bryncoch outfit. Then Ffion Revil and Teo Fillis scored the Ath's next two tries.

By now, Bryncoch did not know what had hit them; the Ath players were playing an outstanding game of rugby. With a darting run, Connor Fabian touched down for Ath's next try and to finish the half off, Teo Fillis and Thomas Anthony both touched down for their second tries of the half.

The score was 6-0 at

half-time.

The Ath backs put in some great runs, cutting Bryncoch's back line, then spreading the ball wide to their wingers, Kasari Mehta who crossed for the next try, and Sam Veasey who also scored a brace of tries.

Then, with the final whistle approaching, the Ath players worked hard in defence and managed to keep a clean sheet.

**Final score:** Ath 9, Bryncoch 0.

**Squad:** Gwilym John (capt), Jack Obbard, Ffion Revil, Thomas Anthony, Teo Fillis, Connor Fabian, Jamie Marshall, Daniel O'Sullivan, Kasari Mehta and Sam Veasey.

Player of the match went to all 10 players! The coaches thought they worked as a unit and looked like a well drilled/organised team.

**PAUL OBB**

## Pencoed under-12s reach final

**PENCOED were hosts to Bettws in the semi-final of the cup.**

Pencoed started well with a deflected shot from Jacob Lloyd which opened the scoring. Pencoed's passing was phenomenal, with one touch football from defence right through to the strikers.

Jacob Lloyd scored again with a lovely long range shot and Jordan Burrows scored soon after.

With a 3-0 lead, Pencoed kept the pressure on Bettws and Jordan Burrows soon got his second. Next on the scoresheet was Lewis Scotcher with a well taken goal that started from deep in defence.

Pencoed were on top form and Lewis Butler

got his second goal giving Pencoed a 6-0 lead. Pencoed's football was applauded by the spectators and Lewis Butler completed his hat-trick with another well-taken goal.

Mason Roach was next, and Jordan Burrows hit a fine shot for his hat-trick. Pencoed couldn't put a foot a foot wrong and Mason scored his second, for a 10-0 lead at half-time.

After the interval, there were further goals for Jordan Burrows, and two for Kieran Heath - one a long-range shot and one a tap-in.

Bettws did get a goal in the last minute of the game. The final score was 13-1.

*Pencoed will now play Pen-y-fai in the final.* **CG**

## Quagmire can't stop Porthcawl RFC under-10s

**PORTHCAWL under-10s had just arrived when a downpour instantly turned the Taibach pit into a quagmire.**

Unfortunately for the home side, the gloom didn't end there as Porthcawl systematically dismantled the Amber and Blacks. First up was Dan Williams, finishing off a team try worthy of any rugby side. Next was Joe Stradling, touching down after some fine ball retention from forwards Max Budding, Louis Protheroe and Lloyd Mortimer. Ben Roach followed this up with a fine try and Ethan Waters claimed Porthcawl's fourth to make the half-time score 24-0.

Ben Collins started the second half with a bang and crossed for a well-deserved try after some fine clearing out at the ruck by the Seaweeds' pack.

Dan completed his brace shortly afterwards and Brandon Cooper claimed Porthcawl's seventh after a strong run. Meuryn Nelson, on for the second half, didn't take long to put down his marker with a poacher's try in the corner. Five conversions from Brandon completed a very successful day at the office.

**Final score: Taibach 0 Porthcawl 50.**

Man of the match was Ethan Waters.

**Rest of Porthcawl squad:** Connor Grant, Harry Evans, Callum Morgan, Kurtis Pridmore, Connor Harrington-Pittam. **IB**

## Good away win for Pencoed RFC under-9s

**PENCOED under-9s visited Maesteg Welsh on Sunday and put an excellent performance together to come away easy winners.**

This was more like the talented side of earlier in the season when total commitment was on display from the whistle. Ben Humphries, Cael Chamberlain, Mikey Bosley, Owain John and Thomas Bending controlled the rucks.

The forwards created a platform for flyers like Tyron Harding and Jonathon Carr to exploit the gaps but it was Cael Chamberlain who opened the scoring, spinning out of a rolling maul. Maesteg went over to level the score but that was as close as they got as most of the play was in their half for the rest of the game.

Jon Carr made a terrific break to score Pencoed's second. Mikey Bosley put in a great all round game and scored with a breakaway

run. Jonathon Carr ran in the fourth just before half-time.

The second half started as the first finished, with the forwards winning the ball at most breakdowns. Cael Chamberlain made it Pencoed's fifth and his second.

More of the same continued, and Owain John narrowly missed a try, just knocking it on before the touchdown.

Sam Costelow hit the gaps and with support from Rhys Bending and Jack Rowlands, Jonathon Carr completed his hat-trick.

Thomas Bending drove over for the last try, before the whistle ending a dominant performance for the visitors. Man of the match was Thomas Bending.

**Final score:** Pencoed 7 - Maesteg Welsh 1.

**Team:** Mickey Bosley, Tyron Harding, Cael Chamberlain, Owain John, Jack Morgan, Sam Costelow, Rhys Bending, Tomas Bending, Jonathon Carr, Ben Humphries.

## Croissants hit six goals!



*Croissants have moved up to third.*

**CROISSANTS had the 'Grand Old Duke Of York' helping them to an impressive 6-1 victory against The Pie Boys, with Dan York making sure they sit third in the Bridgend six-a-side football league.**

**CALLING ALL OFFICIALS!**

*The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest. Email them to: [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk)*

B Attack stay top after their 3-0, Richard Lewis-inspired win over Dunraven, while Racing Inter remain deep in mid-table after losing 2-0 to Hangover Heroes.

Athletico Brakla's 4-0 hammering of Laleston Lions created the headlines in division one, but The Colts are yet to drop a point and sneaked home 2-1 against Hardly.

Team Extreme are yet to get off the mark for the campaign, as Justin Delbridge proved the difference for Young Exiles in a 1-0 victory.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side football league in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit [www.leisure-leagues.net](http://www.leisure-leagues.net).

## Tondy under-9s double victory

**AFTER a number of weeks of disrupted playing and training opportunities, Tondy under-9s were faced with two teams eager to make their mark on Pandy Park.**

Jacob Thomas proudly led the under-9s in the local derby against a Bryncoch team who were impressive from the outset. Tondy soaked up some intensive attacking forward play, but the over-whelming Bryncoch ruck provided the first try for the visitors.

Tondy soon realised the scale of the task in hand and fought back with clever handling and quick recycling to provide Callum Vause the opportunity to outpace the opposition for the Tondy reply.

Luke Dingle and Ellis Matthews both crossed for suitable reward for both team and individual effort.

Tondy needed to tack-

le hard against a Bryncoch resurgence but the pace of the Tondy counter attack provided Callum Vause with another deserved long range try.

**Final score:** Tondy 4 - Bryncoch 1.

James Murray captained the Tondy side against a skillful Treorchy side.

It was an open game which suited the home side. Callum Vause bagged a brace of tries to open the scoring. Cameron Keegans scored a try as reward for his excellent tackling.

Luke Dingle scored the Tondy fourth on the counter-attack, but Treorchy were not done. It was testament to Tondy that they defended their line when the game was won.

Tondy players kept up the pressure to the end, and Morgan Strong deservedly scored to crown a committed team performance.

**Final score:** Tondy 5 - Treorchy 0. **JEFF MURRAY**

## International football fixture at Bryntirion

**BYRNTIRION is to host an international football match when the Wales' boys under-16 squad take on Switzerland and Belgium at home next month in a tournament to be run over three consecutive days.**

The first of the three matches, between Wales and Switzerland, will take place on Tuesday, April 20, at Bryntirion Park, Bridgend, home of Welsh League Division One team Bryntirion FC. Thanks to funding from the Welsh Grounds Improvement scheme, the ground has under-

gone significant development since receiving £31,000 in grant aid in the last three years to improve facilities.

The club received £14,000 in 2008 to build perimeter pitch hard standing and fencing to enclose the ground, followed by a perimeter pitch barrier in 2009. This year Bryntirion FC received £3,700 for new home and away dug-outs.

Llanelli FC will host the second match between Belgium and Switzerland on Wednesday, April 21, with Wales facing Belgium at Newport Stadium the following day.



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Closing date: 22 April 2010.

Subject to # Job Evaluation and \* CRB Disclosure.

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Mae Cynghor Bro Morgannwg yn gyflogwr cyfle cyfartal.

TO A VERY SPECIAL PERSON

Christine Williamson

14 April 2010

60? Never!

All our love, sweetheart, on your special day.

From YOTL (Mike!),  
Hannah and James XXX

P.S. Save some jelly for me!



**Hannah Simmons**  
**GOTCHA!**  
**Happy 18th Birthday**  
**Sunday 11th April**  
**Lots of love, Mum.**  
**x x x**

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88,000 miles, new tyres all  
round, MOT, Tax Aug 10.  
**£1,500 ono**  
**01446 795220**  
**07973 920205****52 Plate**  
**Mercedes Benz**  
**Sprinter 311 CDI**  
**Highroof MWB**  
Pale blue, 87,000 miles,  
MOT May 2010, Tax May 2010,  
runs very well.  
**£3,000 ono**  
**01446 792336****Range Rover**  
**4.4 HSE Petrol**  
**March 06**  
New 12 months tax, new MoT,  
34,000 miles, pale green metal-  
lic, grey leather, lady owner, very  
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**£24,995**  
**01656 890617 or**  
**07969 066981****N Reg**  
**VW Golf**  
**2.8 VR6**  
5 Door, 98 Spec., Dragon  
Green metallic, high mileage  
but excellent condition, long  
MOT, viewing recommended.  
May take part exchange, or  
**£1,375 ono**  
**07884 431858****1998 R Reg**  
**Rover 618i**  
**1.9 Saloon**  
New MOT, til March 2011,  
excellent condition.  
**£650 ono**  
**07796 848851**  
**01446 775464****Deadline for**  
**Motor Cars is 12**  
**noon on Tuesday**Articles  
For Sale

## Family Notices

## Barbara PRICE

Anne, Peter and their families would like to thank all Barbara's family and friends for their support and kindness over the past weeks and for attending the services of celebration of Barbara's life on 23rd March.

## Brian WELCH

Died peacefully on March 31, 2010. Brian, beloved husband of Anne, and a much-loved father and grandfather. Funeral service in St Tathan Church on Monday April 12, 2010 at 2pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made by cheque to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o WA Brown &amp; Son, College St, Llantwit Major.

## DAVIES

## John Stephen (1921-2010)

John passed peacefully away in the early hours of Thursday March 18, 2010.

He is survived by his loving wife Barbara and his '4 boys', Stephen, Roderic, David, Nigel and their families.

Born in 1921, JS was one of life's givers. He gave his all to his family and friends, and also in his exploits on the rugby field and in support of Penarth RFC in their 'glory' days, and latterly with Cowbridge.

As a representative for Spillers/Dalgely for over 30 years, he was devoted to his many farming customers. In his retirement he enjoyed farming at Arfryn and then a return to his 'roots' in Ceredigion.

Most recently, he suffered increasingly from dementia, which he bore like a Trojan. He was supported tirelessly by Barbara, who was with him to the end. He was kind and selfless and will be greatly missed.

Funeral strictly private. Family only. No flowers.

## PATCHETT, Anne

Peacefully on March 28th at Llandough Hospital, Anne of St Mary Church, beloved wife of the late Clarence. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &amp; Sons, Ffônnon.

Funeral Wednesday, April 14th, service 2pm at St Mary Parish Church, Nr Cowbridge, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home. Donations in lieu if desired, to Royal British Legion, c/o J James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

## Public Notices

## LICENSING ACT 2003

CHERYL DAY has applied for the variation of a premises licence pursuant to Sections 34/37 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the following licensing activities at Cafe Des Amis, 4 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 2AD.

The application is to vary the premises licence to provide live music, recorded music, performance of dance, dancing, each day of the week from 1100 hrs to 0030 hrs; and the sale by retail of alcohol every day of the week from 1100hrs to 0030 hrs.

The application can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Section, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU. Any interested party/responsible authority may make representations to the relevant Licensing Authority by May 1, 2010. Any representation shall be made in writing.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5,000.

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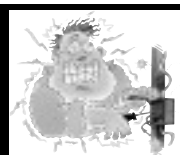
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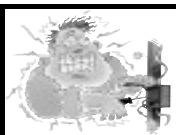
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## Hensol villagers plant for a splash of springtime colour



ABOVE: Patches of daffodils are blooming throughout Hensol, after villagers planted more than 400 bulbs.

VILLAGERS in Hensol have added a real splash of colour to the village after planting more than 400 daffodil bulbs earlier this year.

The unseasonably cold weather meant that it took longer than usual for the daffs to appear, but the village is now bright with yellow flowers along the verges.

The idea came from two villagers, Lola Worgan and Emma Newman. Lola told The GEM: "This year, we decided to really make a splash in springtime, and lots of people joined in to help with the planting."

## NEWS FROM POSITIVE IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

### Imax 3D makes its way to Barry...

SOME time ago, I went to an Imax Cinema in Sydney, Australia, and it was one of the most bizarre experiences of my life, a correspondent writes.

The film was a gothic horror flick that was so awful it was hilarious – but the '3 Dimensional' effect was absolutely amazing. I came out thinking 'what a waste' and wondering why mainstream cinema films aren't made in 3D?

I now know why – they would cost too much to make because, before digital imaging, you had to use two cameras and two projectors and twice as much film.

Bernard Brown's '3D Extravaganza' [PIPS March 25] was amazing. Dubbed 'The Welsh Wizard' by the editor of the Journal of The Stereoscopic Society of Great Britain, he began by giving us a tour of the American National Parks.

Stunning landscape followed on stunning landscape, all in thoroughly convincing 3D. From my seat in the front row I had to resist the temptation to get up and walk off into the sunset in Monument Valley.

Even more fascinating was a sequence of pictures that followed the building of the second Severn Crossing. Bernard revisited choice viewpoints regularly from the laying of the first supports in the riverbed to the official opening walkover.

The added perspective of 3D really brought home what a gigantic project it was. Bernard's picture of the last section being put into place – in the middle – and lining up exactly – was amazing!

During the second part of the evening, Bernard demonstrated how it was done.

In the dark ages before digital photography, he used two cameras, mounted on a bar to replicate the distance between human eyes.

For really wide-open spaces he had to place the cameras several feet apart. Bernard then went on to show how the effect is now created digitally. This involves all sorts of jiggery-pokery with 'bump map' image filters and shifting pixies left and right.

We will not forget the digitally created fantasy images and the 3D pictures of far away galaxies that Bernard used for the grand climax of the evening in a hurry.

The next meeting is

on April 8, with local lads, Tony Warrilow, on 'The essence of wildlife photography', and Dave Hales, who will surprise us because we don't know what he is going to do yet!

Positive Image Photographic Society meets at 7-30pm on alternative Thursday evenings at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street Barry Island. New members will be made very welcome.

Further details of the club and forthcoming events including forthcoming competition details are on the societies website at [www.positiveimagebarry.org.uk](http://www.positiveimagebarry.org.uk).

## Club hands over cheque for mini bus fund



ABOVE: Elisabeth Millard (treasurer), Mike Edwards (Chairman VOPF) and Rene Gannon.

THE Wednesday Afternoon club from Dinas Powys held a lunch at St Andrews Major golf club where they received a visit from the Chairperson of the Older People's Strategy Forum, Mike Edwards, who presented a cheque for £100 to the treasurer Elisabeth Millard.

The money was a contribution to Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern's mini bus, bought with donations from the people of Dinas Powys for the benefit of the elderly and disabled.

## National Trust talk on castle

VALE of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members met recently in Cowbridge, to hear an interesting talk by Dr Kate Roberts, from CADW, on 'Kidwelly Castle'.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21 at 7.30pm in the Duke of Wellington when the speaker, Mr Mike Clubb, will talk about 'The Bridgend Arsenal'.

Membership of the Association is open to any interested person who is a paid-up member of the National Trust or National Trust for Scotland, or spouse/partner of a life member; a National Trust staff member or volunteer.

The annual subscription (payable on January 1) is: £7.50 for one National Trust member; £10 for two members; reduced to £3.75 and £5, respectively, for those joining after June.

In the spring and summer, trips are organised to various National Trust properties. New members welcome.

For further information, contact the membership secretary on 01443 223230.

**Diabetes group**  
**DIABETES UK**  
Cynru Vale of Glamorgan voluntary group is meeting on Tuesday, April 20 in the board room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, starting at 7.30pm.

The speaker is Ms Kathleen Shiels and new members are always welcome; for enquiries, please telephone 01446 746639.

**Gala concert**  
LLANDAFF Musical Society is presenting a gala concert, featuring well-known music at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street, Barry.

It takes place on Friday, April 23 at 7.30pm. Proceeds are for church funds; tickets £5, or pay at the door.

## Penarth and District Ramblers roundup Water, water, everywhere... in Merthyr

NINE walkers joined leader Val Hartrey for the journey up to Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer, and they began their walk from Cyfarthfa Castle.

Built for £30,000 in 1825 by the Ironmaster William Crawshay 11, this mock castle, complete with towers and turrets made of local stone and surrounded by 160-acres of parkland, overlooked the family-owned ironworks on the other side of the River Taff.

Leaving the castle grounds, the group made their way across Cefn bridge, and via steps joined the banks of the Taff Fechan River, which were waterlogged following recent rain and very muddy.

The river footbridge led them to the western bank of the Taff Fechan Nature Reserve, established in 1975, where they slithered along muddy paths through the woods, which in places became rivers and had to be waded through!

Navigating a wide drainage channel that had turned into a pond and crossing a meadow full of pregnant ponies, the group made their way to the Blue Pool (Pwll Glas) and stopped for morning coffee while watching four young men attempting to canoe down the river.

Crossing the road and continuing along the river bank, the group made their way under the 455-foot long, 92-foot high and 7-arched Pontsarn Viaduct.

Five acres of land on the west bank, including the Blue Pool, was presented to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority by Whitbread Brewers in 1986 for the great sum of £1, and a plaque on the viaduct wall commemorates this.

They journeyed on through meandering paths in the woods towards Vaynor, where a spectacular waterfall was crashing down into the flooded valley from below Vaynor church.

Climbing up to visit the church, they saw two toads beside the path, but at the church were thwarted by the arrival of a wedding party, and not wishing to invade their privacy, the visit was postponed for another day.

The wooden bridge over the river had a huge gap in its floor, where planks had been removed and burnt – so great care had to be taken while crossing, before they climbed uphill to join the Taff Trail.

Another steep climb through woods up a path that was running with water followed, before they emerged onto the

open hillside, where a buzzard soared overhead and their climb ended at Morlais Castle quarries where it was quite breezy.

Lunch was enjoyed in the shelter of huge limestone rocks, while skylarks trilled overhead.

Before they left, there was a clear view to the central Brecon Beacon mountain tops and away in the distance the Merthyr mountain railway train was chugging along and puffing out steam that rose in a high cloud.

The quarry floors had huge lakes in them following the thawing of snow and recent heavy rainfall.

However, further along several people were enjoying the sport of rock climbing.

From the quarry top a single red kite flew up into the sky and down across the woodland below, before the group moved on to descend gradually, and cross the road to join the opposite bank of the nature reserve.

Here it was evident just how much the river was swollen, and following the limestone gorge down river with its various pothole shapes created by the passing of time and water damage, the rapids were swirling masses of thundering clear water crashing downhill.

Retracing their steps at the bottom of the Cwm, the group walked back to Cyfarthfa Castle, now a school and museum, and visited the café for some liquid refreshment before the journey home.

On April 10, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk climbing Twmpa in the Black Mountains from Glasbury; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On April 13, meet at 9am at Cogan for an eight-mile moderate walk at St Mellons; contact Viv/Val on 029 2053 1045 (this walk has been moved forward from 20 April).

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks.

Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walk log onto [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY  
STRANGWARD



## Cowbridge pupil seals Cadet motor racing win

**TOM HARVEY**, the young Vale karting driver, didn't give himself much hope of winning after issues with his kart left him uncharacteristically well off the leading pace in his latest outing at Whilton Mill – but a dramatic turn-

around earned the highly-rated young South Wales star a superb triumph against all the odds.

Having finishing an excellent second in the club championship at Whilton last year, and having stormed to his breakthrough national victory in the Lewis Hamilton and Bernie

Ecclestone-backed Formula Kart Stars (FKS) series at the Northants track, Tom boasts an enviable record around the challenging circuit and travelled there with high hopes of another strong result.

Carburettor problems that took a while to successfully diagnose and resolve left the Bonvilston hotshot in distinctly unaccustomed territory during his first two heat races – at the wrong end of the 39-strong MSA Cadet class field.

"We first knew there was a problem when I was 1.2 seconds off the pace in the first heat," he explained.

"I'm never 1.2 seconds off round Whilton Mill! I know my way around there really well. It's a hard circuit to drive, but I like that."

"It's a drivers' track with a really bumpy surface, which makes it very physical as well."

An eye-catching opening lap and gutsy performance in heat one secured the 12-year-old a wholly unexpected seventh place from way down in 22nd on the starting grid.

In heat two, a brilliant getaway from fifth briefly elevated Tom to second, before he found himself helplessly 'dropping like a stone' to an

eventual and massively frustrating 12th at the chequered flag.

Happily, a new engine and carburettor, and tweaked set-up for heat three, suddenly brought the Fusion Motorsport ace right back into contention, with fastest lap proof that a corner had been turned.

He sealed a fifth row starting spot for the all-important final, in which the Cowbridge High School pupil went on to channel all of his efforts into hunting down the top six who had broken away from the chasing pack.

A fired-up charge saw him inexorably reduce the gap until he was a part of the leading scrap himself and then picked off his rivals one-by-one.

He won by six tenths of a second and said:

"In the closing stages there were six of us in the leading pack."

"It was a huge battle and there was a ridiculous amount of passing going on between us."

"It was classic fast, frantic and furious Cadet action, and on the last lap the lead must have changed four or five times!"

## Students pass on tips to the Vale Council (and grill the cabinet)



**YOUNG people** have been passing on tips to the Vale Council's cabinet at a series of question and answer sessions at the Cowbridge and Bryn Hafren comprehensive schools.

"The cabinet spent an hour with each school council, who were well prepared and didn't pull any punch-

**ABOVE:**  
The cabinet members are pictured with students from Cowbridge and Bryn Hafren comprehensives.

es!" a spokeswoman reported. "Questions ranged from education issues to leisure facilities in their areas, as well as the popular subject of pot holes and road conditions."

"Cabinet members were also quizzed on student transport

options and whether they thought recycling should be made compulsory."

School council members from both schools afterwards attended a cabinet meeting at the Civic Offices in Barry to see how the sessions are run.

Council leader, Coun

Gordon Kemp, said: "The questions that were asked by both the school councils help us to understand the issues that are current and important to pupils of all ages."

"Cabinet and members found the experience very useful and enjoyable, and as a result we are planning to visit other schools throughout this year to meet with their school councils."

## Happy 1st birthday to Bro Radio!



Alana Davies with breakfast presenter Matthew Wilson and Station Manager Steve Powell.

**I WAS** delighted to attend a party last Wednesday, to celebrate Bro Radio's first birthday in the Hub at the Barry YMCA, where it began transmitting just a year ago.

It is most refreshing to see so many people of all ages working together, mainly in a voluntary

capacity, for the pleasure and information of the community – and clearly enjoying every minute of it.

I'm sure this enterprise will go from strength-to-strength, and I look forward to being invited to their second birthday party.

Alana Davies  
(Labour parliamentary candidate, Vale of Glamorgan)

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| 56 | Astra 1.6 Life 5dr in silver lightning 13,000 miles       | £2495       |
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| 56 | Corso 1.2 Life A/C 5dr, Under 6,000 miles                 | Choice from £7495 |
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| 06 | Signum 1.9 150 Design in Sapphire Black, 39,000 miles                            | £2895             |
| 06 | Vectra 1.8 Life SRi Estate in Metro Blue, 62,000 miles                           | £2895             |
| 57 | Vectra Design 1.8 5dr in Pannacotta, 18,252 miles                                | £2895             |
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# Honours are even in 'atrocious' conditions

THESE two old rivals met at Jenner Park and were welcomed by high winds and heavy downpours – however, the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of both teams.

Due to injury and unavailability, Gavin Chesterfield was forced into two changes from Saturday's starting line-up with Lewis Cosslett and James Simpson starting in place of Damon Searle and Scott Jones.

Ton started much the livelier and they were soon putting the Dragons' defence under pressure, but just as we all thought they had weathered this initial storm, a hard low cross into the penalty area deflected off defender Dan Clare and into the net before keeper Dan Bradley could react.

With only eight minutes gone, there was plenty of time for Barry

## BARRY TOWN TON PENTRE

2  
2

Town to get back in the game. The team started to get to grips with their game, but some resolute defending by Ton kept The Dragons at bay.

They kept plugging away and were rewarded when a low cross into the Ton six-yard box was steered into the net impressively by Ian Jones with 30 minutes gone.

After a long time out with niggly injuries, Ian is starting to show the goalkeeping abilities that he is renowned for.

It was a deserved equaliser and both teams continued to play some good football without further troubling the 'keepers.

The second half continued in the same vein with both teams playing attacking football despite the atrocious conditions.

The play was end-to-end, but the stout defending from both

defences limited goalscoring opportunities.

Ton eventually took the lead, again from a mistake in The Dragons' defence. Alyn Jones, who was unmarked on the edge of the box, beat Dan Bradley.

Although there was still 20 minutes to go, this looked like the winner, as so few chances were being created.

One thing that can be said about this team, though, is that they do not give up easily.

Gavin Chesterfield brought on Sam Small, Jaymes Dixon and

Michael Parkins to try to rescue at least a point from the game.

With time now running out and only seconds left of time added on, a great cross from the right landed at the feet of Sam Small who, 15 yards out, curled the ball past the helpless Ton 'keeper to give the Dragons the point they deserved.

Ton only had time to kick off before the referee brought proceedings to an end.

A most enjoyable game in atrocious condition and supported by three officials who did their best to keep the game flowing.

DAVID COLE

# The View win out in a 'thrilling' game of rugby

## TONGWYNLAIS RFC THE SEA VIEW (BARRY)

17  
22

ON Saturday, The View travelled for a bottom of the table clash with friends Tongwynlais – winning this match would ensure the victors didn't finish bottom.

With such a lot riding on the outcome you would have expected a tactical percentage game, in fact both sets of supporters were treated to a thrilling game of running rugby.

Early pressure from The View soon told, as Tongwynlais infringement giving Damion

Huggins a chance for early points, a superb kick was judged wide by one judge, over by the other! In fairness, the small posts made a clear decision difficult.

It wasn't long before The View opened the scoring. A lineout in the Tongwynlais 22 was won and fly-half Glynn Smith burst through desperate Tong tackles to score close to the post.

Huggins left the touch judges in no doubt with a cracking conversion.

Sea View continued applying the pressure, Leon Ford going close, Tongwynlais defended well, their full-back



ABOVE: Sea View on the attack.

clearing his lines time and again only to see the View wingers Ben Cotter and Aaron Bond run the ball straight back at him.

A lineout deep in Tongwynlais territory led to a try from flanker Chris Hann, collecting his own throw from Azzopardi. The View pack drove over the line for Hann to score.

The posts again beat Huggins but The View were in a commanding 12-0 lead. The pack was dominant in the set piece and the loose, the engine room of Leon Ford and Gareth Lowes providing a solid platform for the front row of Burston, Veness and Huelin.

Wayne Burston had a fine game in the loose, carrying the ball well and deftly passing out of contact.

With half-time looming, Tongwynlais scored

two tries. Half-time score 12-12.

View were down a man after Cotter's yellow card and the second half began with them under pressure from an invigorated Tongwynlais.

The never-say-die character of the View however shone through. With Cotter back on the field, it was Glyn Smith who settled The View nerves, scoring two more tries to restore the lead 12-22.

Tongwynlais came back to score a try, to close the gap to 17-22. The final five minutes saw The View defend comfortably to earn themselves a well-deserved victory!

The View's final league game of the season is a home fixture on April 10 against Sully Sports.

MV

## State of Play makes Grand National bid

ON AND OFF THE TURF  
with Brian Lee

State Of Play, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, bids to become the first horse trained in Wales to win the world's greatest steeplechase – the Aintree Grand National – on Saturday since Kirkland, trained at Lawrenny Park near Tenby was successful in 1905.

State Of Play, a 20-1 chance, finished fourth of the 17 finishers in last year's race, won by 100-1 outsider Mom Mome and might well have finished a lot nearer to the winner but for making mistakes half-way through the race.

It was back in 1937 that another Welshman called Evan Williams, the 24-year-old son of Fred Williams of the Bear Hotel and the starter at Ely Racecourse, and also from Cowbridge, rode Royal Mail to success.

When asked by the press what he thought about his success, he replied: "What can I say? I have won the Grand National, and I am naturally delighted.

"Give the credit to the horse. He jumped perfectly and cleverly. He made one or two mistakes, but they were not entirely his fault."

One thing certain, if State Of Play is successful his trainer won't be short of words.

The rearranged Glamorgan Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases also take place this Saturday at Ystradowen and there are more than 100 entries for the six races.

Robert Thomas's Mick's Prospect can get backers off to a good start in the members' race at 1pm.

David Brace's O' Rage will be fancied to take the young horse maiden and Ian Brice's Cool Cliche has Little Miss Monty to beat in the aged maiden.

David Oakes's Opal Ridge has Hummel Origins to contend with in the club members' race and King's Euro, Chandlers Cross and Silver Story are down to run in the mixed open race.

There are 26 entries for the restricted and Rimini and Farnoghe have Carmen Goldworthy's On Oath to beat.

## ISLAND MARINE UNDER-13S SCOOP A SPONSORSHIP DEAL



LEFT: Island Marine under-13s are pictured in the kit sponsored by R & M Williams.

## St Richard Gwyn pupils try archery

ARCHERY sessions have been introduced after school at St Richard Gwyn Catholic School in Barry to help both and boys and girls hit the national target of taking part in five hours of exercise a week.

The sessions have been arranged thanks to the innovative 5x60 scheme, which provides extra-curricular activities to encourage secondary school pupils across Wales to get active for at least 60 minutes, five days a week (5x60).

The school's 5x60 officer, Ben Williams, added: "Archery is tempting a number of new faces to take part in 5x60 sessions, and they are all enjoying having a go at something new."

"It's great to see a lot of girls getting involved



Archery sessions are helping attract girls in the Vale to take part in extra-curricular sporting activities as part of the 5x60 scheme.

and I hope that word will continue to get around that 5x60 sessions are the place to be at lunchtime and after school."

You can find out more about the 5x60 scheme in the Vale online at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60)

ISLAND MARINE under-13 football club would like to thank R and M Williams for sponsoring their kit during this season.

Paul Richards, procurement manager for R and M Williams, said: "This is the second year that the company has sponsored a junior side. We are very pleased to be able to promote youth developments within the community and wish the club all the success for the future."

The club currently play in the Vale of Glamorgan under-13 league.

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| 195/50R14 Bridgestone B330 | £63.25 | £118  | £230  | 195/50R15 Avon ZPS | £52.25 | £99   | £199  |
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- 05 05 MERCEDES Benz 1.9 T14 (150bhp) Vector 4-Dr Saloon Automatic. In teal silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh.....£16,995
- 05 05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDI Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon. In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles.....£15,995
- 04 54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe. In tanzanite blue with ivory leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles.....£19,995
- 01 51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic. In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles.....£4,995

### SPORTS

- 07 57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SiL in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles.....£10,495
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- 06 56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback. In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles.....£10,495
- 06 58 SAAB 9-3 1.9 T14 (150bhp) Vector 4-Dr Saloon Automatic. In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles.....£8,995
- 06 06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDI 2.0 (140) 5-dr in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles.....£9,995
- 06 06 FORD Focus 1.6 VTR Sport 5-Dr Hatchback. In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles.....£7,495
- 06 55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSI 5-dr Sport Back in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior, BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate control, cd, only 39,280 miles.....£11,995
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- 04 04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust system, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,763 miles.....£25,995
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- 54 VAUXHALL Tigra Convertible 1.8 Sport in Kingfisher blue with anthracite interior, electric roof, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 62,840 miles.....£6,395
- 54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible. In ignition black with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd, alloy alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles.....£4,995
- 04 04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles.....£5,995
- 04 04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive in arctic silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles.....£4,295
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- 02 02 MG ZS 2.5 180. In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles.....£2,995
- 02 51 HONDA S2000 Roadster 2.0i Vtec (Cat 1 Alarm) In Berlina Black with full red leather interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric roof, glass rear screen, one owner only, 20,510 miles.....£9,995
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### FAMILY

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- 55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique in met platinum silver with ruhe cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles.....£5,795
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- 05 05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles.....£6,495
- 05 05 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Zetec Climate. In moon dust silver with rack ebony interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD, quick clear glass, one owner, only 42,025 miles.....£5,995
- 54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate in royal blue with Monaco ash leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, roof rails, alarm, only 32,000 miles.....£5,995
- 04 04 TOYOTA Avenis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles.....£6,495
- 04 04 SKODA Fabia 1.2 Limited Edition 5-dr hatchback in met green with grey interior, alloy wheels, electric windows, down, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 52,765 miles.....£3,795
- 52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback. In caterpillar green with grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles.....£3,995
- 01 Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon. In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles.....£4,295

### SMALL

- 09 09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4 in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles.....£6,995
- 58 VAUXHALL Corsa Breeze 1.0 12v 3-dr hatchback in lightning silver with dark upholstery, air con, alloy wheels, cd with auxiliary input, colour coded bumpers, only 12,970 miles.....£7,295
- 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles.....£8,495
- 58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVTi T2 5-dr Hatchback. In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles.....£7,995
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1. 5-dr Hatchback in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles.....£5,995
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- 06 06 FORD Fiesta Zetec 5-dr. In panther black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 18,131 miles.....£5,995
- 06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted auto controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles.....£5,995
- 05 05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback. In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles.....£7,995
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- 02 02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr in silver with full black astrakhan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles.....£5,495
- 52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles.....£3,495
- 01 51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakhan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles.....£3,995



05 05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDI Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon. In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles.....£15,995



05 05 VW Bora 1.9 TDI Highline 4-Dr Saloon. In black with beige leather interior, air con, heated seats, rear parking sensors, cruise control, only 57,655 miles.....£7,495



01 Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon. In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles.....£4,295



02 52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback. In caterpillar green with grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles.....£3,995



06 55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSI 5-dr Sport Back in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior, BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate control, cd, only 39,280 miles.....£11,995



02 02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakhan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles.....£5,495



06 06 FORD Fiesta Zetec 5-dr. In panther black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 18,131 miles.....£5,995



01 51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic. In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles.....£4,995

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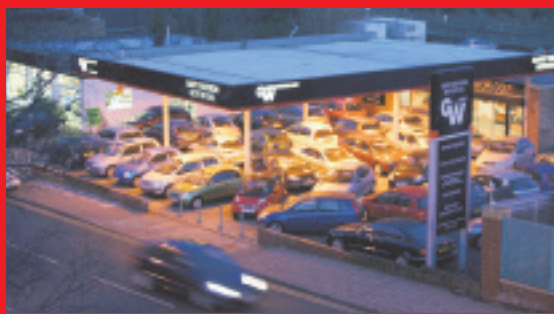
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| 07 | SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr. In black, 13,000 miles, high specification model at . . . . .                      | £6,995                            |
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| 56 | FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic 3-dr. In black, 12,000 miles, superb value at . . . . .                | £6,995                            |
| 55 | HONDA Civic 1.6 Executive 5-dr. In forest pearl silver with black leather trim, 35,000 miles, fsh . . . . .   | <b>REDUCED BY £500 TO</b> £6,995  |
| 07 | FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamique Sport Automatic. Met blue, 23,000 miles . . . . .                             | <b>REDUCED BY £500 TO</b> £6,495  |
| 07 | RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr. In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc . . . . .                     | £6,495                            |
| 56 | FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr. In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc . . . . .                             | £6,495                            |
| 56 | PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-Dr. In black, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc, ideal family hatch. . . . .       | £6,295                            |
| 57 | PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr. In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty . . . . .                 | <b>REDUCED BY £300 TO</b> £5,995  |
| 04 | TOYOTA Corolla 2.0 D4D T3 5-dr. In silver, 54,000 mile diesel with sat-nav . . . . .                          | £5,995                            |
| 04 | VOLVO S60 2.4 D5 SE. In met silver birch, 63,000 miles, high specification diesel at . . . . .                | £5,995                            |
| 04 | VW Passat 1.9TDi Highliner 130 Automatic. In silver with black leather, 84,000 miles, high spec . . . . .     | £5,695                            |
| 07 | CITROEN C4 1.4 LX 5-dr. In gun metal met, 35,000 miles, stylish hatch at . . . . .                            | £5,495                            |
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| 04 | FORD Focus 1.6 Edge 5-dr. In light met-blue, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc. . . . .               | £4,495                            |
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# GEM sport

## HIGH SPEED GAME IMPOSSIBLE IN QUAGMIRE

### Athletic are stuck in the Carmarthen mud

**BRIDGEND** Athletic's fine start to 2010 came unstuck as they slipped and slithered to defeat at Carmarthen Athletic by the odd penalty in three.

The game was played in atrocious conditions, particularly when heavy showers descended in the first half. Neither side was able to maintain control of the ball for any length of time, and extended handling moves were the exception rather than the norm.

The home team chose to play with the slight slope in the first half, but it was Bridgend Athletic who roared into the attack in the first few minutes, pinning Carmarthen back inside their 22.

An opportunity for a score was missed when Tom Morgan dribbled a loose ball with Dan Apsee in support. Carmarthen killed the ball but the resulting kick at goal from 35 metres out by Steve Lewis was just short in the heavy conditions.

The visitors continued to attack and wing Lindsay McCausland chased and caught a

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| CARMARTHEN ATHLETIC | 6 |
| BRIDGEND ATHLETIC   | 3 |

high kick from which he made good ground through the centre before handing on to Morgan, who was pulled down 10 metres short, with the ball being spilled in the process.

A little later, the Ath had another chance when Apsee picked up from a scrum and slipped the ball to scrum-half Aled Thomas, who was bundled into touch just short. Next, Stuart Morris was guilty of being a little over-ambitious in trying a drop goal from 30 metres. His kick barely got off the ground.

It was now Carmarthen's turn to gain the upper hand. Some well-placed kicks sent the Bridgend side back into their own half and when a home maul was pulled down, the Carmarthen fly-half Ricky Williams just missed with his penalty kick. Almost immediately, a similar offence gave him a second opportunity and he made no mistake this time.

Back came the home side again and Stuart Nation, Jon Stoker and

Tom Morgan put in some fine defensive work until Dan Apsee was caught playing the ball on the floor and off-side. He was given 10 minutes in the sin-bin and Williams doubled the home team's lead.

The remaining few minutes of the half saw Athletic still on the defensive with Chris Whitcombe, Matthew Norman and Jamie Doherty showing commitment and steel to keep the home attackers at bay.

After the first few minutes of the second half, Apsee returned and from then on it was all attack from Bridgend Athletic. They dominated possession and created a number of chances to score.

One break down the right by Tom Morgan resulted in Jonny Nation being bundled into touch by the desperate cover defence, and minutes later McCausland suffered the same fate.

It was from this line-out that the Ath drove to the middle and forced the home side to give away a penalty for Steve Lewis to step up and convert.



*Aled Thomas on the attack with Dan Apsee and Jonny Nation in support.*

Photograph by KERRY FOTHERGILL.

The Bridgend side continued to probe and challenge the home team who defended with commitment and resolution.

The Ath replaced Doherty and Whitcombe with Connor McDonald and Jonny Jones, and carried the battle to Carmarthen with renewed ferocity.

It was inevitable that the home side would give away penalties and two clear-cut chances were missed in the heavy and greasy conditions.

With time running out, the Ath made one last effort and forced a penalty. It was a long-range effort and proved to be beyond the capabilities of veteran Stuart Morris to level the

scores on this occasion, unlike many others in the past.

It was not a day for the Bridgend Athletic high tempo, free-running style but the coaches were delighted that the team were so competitive throughout, as in the recent past they would have been likely to have been completely outgunned by heavier, well-drilled opponents.

The losing bonus point earned today has narrowed the gap between Bridgend Athletic and the two teams above them, Bonymaen and Corus, who both lost.

Next week the Ath play Bonymaen at Newbridge Fields.

MARK DAVIES

### Evan (17) lands his first winner

**Seventeen-year-old Evan David from Llanharan, riding the 11-year-old French-bred Liberty Rock, notched up his first winner at the Teme Valley Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Brampton Bryan.**

Evan, who works for Aberthryn National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan, had *Liberty Rock* in a prominent position throughout the novice riders' race and riding a well-judged finish, went on to win by one-and-a-quarter lengths from the favourite *Prioritisation* with Victor Merlyn a further neck away in third place.

*Liberty Rock*, a winner in France of a two-mile and four furlong hurdle race, is owned and trained by Bridgend's Samantha Butler.

*Famouge*, a seven-year-old chesnut gelding, owned and trained by Bridgend's David Brace, and ridden by Richard Woolacott, outjumped his nine rivals to land the restricted, coming home 25 lengths ahead of *Laverty*.

Like *Liberty Rock*, *Famouge* is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt.

Mr Brace's *O' Rage* was made favourite to win the open maiden race but was carried out at the second fence.

BRIAN LEE

## Pencoed Phoenix Ladies start with a 22-all thriller!

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| PENCOED PHOENIX | 22 |
| TREORCHY WOMEN  | 22 |

**TREORCHY** kicked off on this unique occasion when, for the first time in the history of Pencoed RFC, it was represented in organised, competitive women's rugby.

Beth Butler and Amie Stevens excelled with early tackles in their own 22 to keep the visitors out. Phoenix then sent speedster Catherine James away from 60 metres, only for the score to be ruled out for a forward pass!

Following an opening minute injury to Lucy Gorringer, Phoenix then lost their second player, Sophie Williams, with a knee injury, to be replaced by Katie Murphy.

Stevens produced two more huge hits, with the crowd agitated at each collision. Then the Treorchy player of the match, hooker Mia Phillips, surged over from 20 metres out.

Butler then scored on the counter for Phoenix, running in from 35 metres after snapping up a loose ball. Shortly after, Phoenix lost possession near their own line for Treorchy to capitalise and score a converted try to lead 12-5.

Both sides then defended well, before Treorchy increased their lead to 17-5, slicing through from the side of a scrumage.

Phoenix countered and scored the try of the match, Sarah Hughes outpacing the Treorchy cover defence from 60 metres out to score under the sticks. Butler converted to cut the deficit to 17-12.

At the start of the second half, Phoenix went straight on the attack, and levelled the score at 17-17 with a try from Louise Jones. Phoenix were on top territorially with the wind advantage, but the visitors were defending stoutly.

Butler then put Phoenix in a good position, before Hughes



*Pencoed Phoenix player of the match, Amie Stevens.*

crossed for her second try to lead 22-17.

Treorchy responded immediately with a try in the corner, to level at 22-22.

Butler again put her side into the visitors' 22 with a well-judged kick in the closing minutes, and Phoenix pressed hard for the winning score. However, it was not to be, with the draw a fair result, both sides having given their all.

Phoenix will now prepare for the Abergavenny Festival in May when both the under-18 and senior women's teams will be in action in their respective competitions.

TR

## Tennis hopefuls join UK coaching scheme

**A NUMBER of junior tennis players from the Vale have been retained on the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) AEGON**

**FutureStars programme for a second consecutive year.**

The players that have been reselected are: Safiyyah Azeez (Dinas Powys), a 16-year-old, who trains at the Esports Health and Racquets Club Cardiff; James Hignett (Penarth, 17) who trains at the International High Performance Centre at the University of Bath; and Matthew Kamal (Pontyclun, 13), who trains at the Esports Health and Racquets Club, Cardiff.

The players are among 395 youngsters selected for the programme which recognises and supports some of the best juniors in the country, based on the individual player's talent ID assessment or ranking.

They were first awarded a place on the AEGON FutureStars

programme in 2009, and after a successful year on court, they have been selected again as part of the 2010 intake of players. They will join top

juniors from around the country who all receive varying levels of funding and support from the LTA.

## Kenfig Hill's 14 men dig deep for victory

**KENFIG HILL** Firsts played Glynneth and it was a superb all-round performance by the Mules, who played all but 10 minutes of the game with a man short due to a sending off.

This was an important win as it keeps the Mules in contention for a place in the promotion play-offs.

Chris Tossell had a good game for Kenfig Hill with the seven-man pack more than a match for the opposition.

Outside-half Nicky Giles scored a try, two conversions and a penalty, with full-back Ray Evans also scoring a try. Glynneth replied with three penalties.

**Final score: Kenfig Hill 17 Glynneth 9. KENFIG HILL SECONDS v BRACKLA THIS was another solid performance by**



*Chris Tossell in action.*

Photograph by PETER GILLING

the Seconds, beating Brackla 24-16.

Dai Dent gave a man of the match performance, which he topped off with a fine individual try. Prop Jon Jones scored a try, as did Rhys Stanton. On leave sailor Matthew Keylock completed the try scoring, with Gareth Lewis kicking two conversions.

**KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH v CORUS** THE Youth completed

a good week for themselves, following on from their 24-10 victory over Maesteg, they defeated Corus 31-10 on Thursday evening.

There were tries for Callum Matthews, Matthew Keylock, Gareth Downes, Lewis Morgan and Curtis Kerton. Shaun Burnell put over three conversions. Both Ross Cooper and Curtis Kerton had outstanding games.

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